

Congregational Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2020 – **APPROVED 10/31/2021**

Call to Order

President of the Governing Board, Scott Strachan called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Approximately 24 members were in attendance in person. 28 households joined online.

Opening Prayer

Senior Pastor Joe Meyer opened with a prayer.

June 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Wally Haase made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2019 congregational meeting. Terry Ebke seconded. The motion passed.

Governing Board Elections

The nominating committee recommended Jacque Thole & Jesse James to replace the two board members leaving. Faith Sparks made a motion to approve their election. Ken Andresen seconded. The motion passed.

2021 Budget: Chris Thomson

Chris provided a financial update, as well as overview of the proposed 2021 budget. He noted that giving is 2.2% below last year. Expenses are also down 2% from a year ago and 11% below budget, so our financial situation is actually better than we expected/budgeted for. Cash on hand currently covers 2.3 months, better than a year ago. Our old mortgage has a balance of just over \$340,000 (was \$413,000 a year ago). The new renovation mortgage balance was \$1,126,149 at the end of September.

The proposed 2021 budget is 2.9% lower than the 2020 budget to reflect reduced giving and to account for the pandemic to continue into 2021. The proposed budget is \$2,096,191. Wages will be static and will account for 67.7% of budget. Synod giving will remain consistent. We are budgeting \$45,000 for missions in the coming year. There are no budgeted funds for Single Mom's Morning Out or Stephen's Ministry, because we have ample funds to cover expenses for 2021. Principal giving toward the mortgage is not included in the budget, but we estimate those would be around \$125,000. We are on pace for a net income year.

Pat Klinefelter made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Betty Meyn seconded. The motion passed.

Senior Pastor Meyer

Pastor began by thanking the governing board, staff, Scott Strachan (who is ending his tenure as board president) and Anne Sheeley (who is leaving the board). He noted that the staff did a fantastic job of

stepping up to “meet the need” as we entered uncharted waters in dealing with the pandemic, specifically noting the efforts surrounding livestream. He also thanked Chris and Alena for doing the research and work to help us get the Payroll Protection Program money, stating he doesn’t believe we would have received those funds without them and their efforts, and that gave us a welcome cushion when future giving was uncertain.

Pastor noted tomorrow is his sixth anniversary being here. He thanked the congregation – thanked them for the love that has been shown to him, and he stated this has been the best six years of his ministry. Pastor also spoke to the congregation’s level of engagement, highlighting all the views online of Bible studies, podcasts, etc. He also appreciates the survey responses, specifically the encouragement given to the staff, especially in the comments (noting most respondents were doing ok, but they were concerned as to how the staff was handling the challenging times). He confirmed the staff received and appreciated those comments.

Pastor is confident that people will come back to worship in person, partly because financial giving has been so solid. He encourages giving to continue, while understanding that there are some who have lost jobs or lost businesses. He stated that the congregation wants to be there for those people.

Pastor addressed the departure of Steve Kowbel. He was greatly appreciated by the staff and congregation. Steve’s responsibilities are covered by three people: Brenden Pugh, Carly Jo Hansen, and James Thompson. Brenden is a new employee, and Pastor is very excited to have a full-time videographer on staff. He is responsible for all things technology, including producing the worship livestream, podcasts, and online Bible studies. He mentioned how amazingly talented Carly Jo is, and he’s very excited to see how she will help to grow and bless worship in the Family Life Center. Pastor also spoke highly of James and noted how lucky we are to have him picking hymns and leading worship for the traditional and blended services.

We are in the Hands year of our Head, Heart, Hands triennium. That’s hard to do during a pandemic, but we’ve still been finding opportunities to serve. We recently did the Give-Away Event, and now we are collecting coats and mittens for Moulton Elementary. Pastor will continue to look for other opportunities as well. He will be planning the next triennium soon – he emphasized we’re going two places: God’s Word and the missions field.

Pastor discussed the upcoming worship services (as of the opening of the Family Life Center November 7th and 8th). All contemporary services will be held in the Family Life Center, with the two services held there on Sundays at 9 and 10:30 AM being mask mandated. All other services will continue to have masks recommended but optional. He noted he really can’t mandate that all services be mask-required unless the governor mandates that, but we want to offer mask-mandated services as an outreach to those who won’t come unless we have those services. He is also excited to offer two services at both 9 and 10:30 (one in the sanctuary and one in the FLC), as it will give us more room to allow for social distancing now, and more room for growth once we are beyond the pandemic. We still offer the traditional service at 7:30 AM in the sanctuary as well.

Additional Comments

Scott introduced the governing board officers for the coming year. Kurt Kromminga will serve as President, Craig Grundmeier as Vice President, Martha Raecker as Treasurer, and Jacque Thole as Secretary. Scott also reminded the congregation that God's steadfast love and faithfulness are sure – and this year is just proving that.

Closing Prayer

Scott Strachan offered a prayer and then led the congregation in The Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The congregation meeting was adjourned at 1:45 by Governing Board President Scott Strachan.

Respectfully submitted by Craig Grundmeier