

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
62nd Annual Congregational Meeting – January 30, 2022

*Called into community, gifted to serve.
Glorifying God through love in action.*

We met remotely via Zoom during this time of COVID-19 social distancing. People were using Zoom and could see the PowerPoint presentation including financial data, some members were using their phones for audio.

Meeting Logistics – Jeff went over logistics for the meeting. The microphones were muted to eliminate background noise; however, we could use Chat window or unmute to ask a question. We could also raise a hand if on camera. Looking at attendance, we had a quorum. We tested the audio quality for members using their phones for sound. Voting would be done by Zoom Meeting Poll; any confirmed member could vote. The poll had two questions; the first was a vote in favor, the second question was if opposed. Both questions needed responses. There was verbal voting for members who were on the telephone. We practiced the process, so everyone was comfortable with the questions and technology. Julie was available if there were any polling problems.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Aileen opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - We approved Minutes from the January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting, and the April 18, 2021 Congregational meeting. The motion was made to approve the meetings as written, it was seconded by Julie Gerstenberger, and they were approved by visual voting.

Pastor's Report – In addition to the written report that Pastor Aileen provided, she thanked several people for their faithful service on Council including Tarra Hartman, Reggie Renz, Mary Sonnevile, and Linda Irmer (who filled in for Ellen Meyer). Pastor Aileen also thanked Scott and Robbin Bourque for their many years of service in Finance and their efforts as counters. Pastor Aileen also thanked Jeff Gerstenberger for his outstanding leadership as Council President through flood, merger, and Pandemic.

Pastoral Assistant Report – In addition to his written report, Pastor Hans said he was grateful and honored to serve and partner with Pastor Aileen.

Music Director – Willie La Favor also thanked people who were helping Messiah move through new territory. He encouraged people to join the handbell choir.

Congregation President - Jeff said it was a blessing to be a congregational leader. Jeff reviewed the congregational strategic goals; however, metrics were irrelevant because the pandemic caused so many limitations.

Ministry Reports (Written) - Jeff encouraged everyone to read the written reports in the Annual Report for details and he asked if there were any questions.

Council Elections – Elections include 6 nominees: Janet Graves-Wright for Finance, Andy Mitchel for Adult Faith Formation Ministry, Mark Sutliff for Outreach Ministry, Sheri Treadwell

as Member at Large, Joanne Niemi as Congregational President, and Amy Trichanh will move to Youth and Family Ministry. Shelly Knapp, Paul Williams, and Laurie Simonson will continue on council.

Jim Hartmann made the motion to approve the slate of nominees; Sandy Moncrief seconded the motion. The vote, including phone participants, was 60 Yes and 0 No votes.

Synod Assembly Representatives Election – We nominated Amy Trichanh and Shelly Knapp to represent Messiah at the 2023 Synod Assembly. Tarra Hartman made the motion; Larry Dennis seconded it and the nomination was approved.

2021 Financial Highlights –

- Jeff shared a PowerPoint slide that illustrated the 2021 financial highlights and answered all questions. Income was \$8,580 or 2.5% below plan and expenses were below plan by \$30,808 or 8.9%. The areas of change were staff compensation being down because Pastor Hans worked less hours because of COVID restrictions, and Outreach Ministry. There was a year-end operating surplus of \$22,488. The current year Carryover Fund is \$21,273. \$1,156 was transferred to the Greater Messiah Fund. Unbudgeted Benevolent funds increase 12% to \$53,355. The PPP loan was formally forgiven. The elevator repair was completed for a total of \$42,210.
- The proposed 2021 budget was \$344,425 which was 4% over 2020. The 2022 proposed budget is \$347,700 with no significant changes.
- We reviewed the changes made at the Congregational Financial Meeting based on congregational input. Examples are we saved funds from trash pickup, took out Brass for Easter – one time this year, increased postage. Insurance changed because we needed a new provider due to the flood. We suggested a cushion in the Greater Messiah Fund.
- Process was followed to approve the detailed \$347,700 budget and it was approved through poll and phone unanimously.

Sanctuary Vision Update – The team has met several times (Shelly, Pastor Aileen, Sandy Volta, Ellen Meyer) and has been working with the Worship and Music team. Their mission has been “What do we want for our space?”. They are not ready to make a proposal, the timing is not right and there is a tight budget. More dialog needs to happen.

New Business – We discussed thoughts of in-person worship and considered the current COVID-19 statistics and comments were welcome.

We discussed mask wearing and also cloth vs. N95 and differences between vaccinated and non-vaccinated participants. We considered what other churches are currently doing and what the ELCA recommends.

Julie led a poll: 8 people voted yes that they would be comfortable to return to worship in person with no changes. 12 voted to return to worship with modifications like wearing masks. 15 voted to remain on Zoom and 3 voted for a mix.

We discussed how wearing masks would impact communion and the idea was to take them down at a time when keeping others safe.

Closing Prayer - Pastor Aileen closed the meeting with prayer. She also thanked everyone for attending and participating in important discussions.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson