

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2018**

Meeting called to order by President Julie Gerstenberger @ 12:15

**Opening Prayer** - Pastor Aileen

**2017 Annual Meeting Minutes** presented for approval - Motioned, Seconded & Approved  
**Sept. 11, 2016 Congregational Meeting Minutes** were presented for approval- Motioned, Seconded & Approved

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Aileen Robbins thanked the congregation, those who have served on the HUB and those people who have completed their final terms on the HUB (Julie, Joanne and John.) A big THANK YOU to all for your engagement and leadership!

**Music Ministry Report** - Dr. Willie La Favor - a big Thank You to all who participate in our many music ministries; he also invited everyone to join a choir to try it out.

**Congregation President's Report** – Julie Gerstenberger reviewed: How are we doing on our goals? We have made significant progress on our 2018 Strategic Goals, exceeding our goals in most areas by the end of 2017. Continued focus on increasing congregational engagement and being church for our community will ensure we are growing as disciples and witnesses to God's love.

*We will increasingly become "Church for the Community as we:*

- 1. Promote languages and behaviors that acknowledge and celebrate that all are beloved and gifted children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- 2. Increase our engagement with the community through the quantity of our interactions and the quality of our relationships.*
  - a. Grow the % of Messiah members engaged in ministries with intentional community interaction from 7% to 20%. Actual 2017 year-end was 30%!*
  - b. Double the number of community members engaged with Messiah ministries with intentional community interaction. Actual 2017 year-end was 2.5X!*
- 3. Equip people through study, worship and training to share our unique faith stories such that God's love is proclaimed.*
- 4. Continue to increase congregational engagement in our ministries of worship, learning, service and outreach from 50% to 65% of members. Actual 2017 year-end was 55%.*

**Ministry Reports** are in the written Annual Report distributed to the congregation; no verbal reports were needed.

**HUB Election** – The Nominations Committee and HUB have nominated the following candidates who have agreed to stand for election to the HUB for a two year term:

- Rod Speer - Property - second term
- Jeff Gerstenberger - President - first term

- Mark Sutliff - Service - first term
- Jeff Ulreich - At Large - first term
- Judy Webster - Reach Out - first term

The slate of candidates was elected unanimously by written ballot with a confirmed quorum in attendance (60 confirmed members present and voting, 37 required for a quorum).

**Endowment Fund Board election** - Ladd Dromgold nominated Wayne Reabold for membership on the Endowment Fund Board. Nomination was seconded, and approved. Wayne was elected to become a member of the Endowment Fund Board.

**Foundation for the Future Update** - Jeff Gerstenberger

Our Campaign goal was \$450,000.

Status to date:

- Pledges - \$411,900
- As able giving - \$2,148
- Total \$414,048
- Receipts to date - \$227,090
- \$35,952 is still needed to reach our goal.
  - Additional pledges welcomed
  - As able giving still needed
  - All gifts are important to the success of the campaign
- Thank You to All!
- Proposed Motion: "To approve purchase and installation of an Outside Air Unit to meet town code requirements using up to \$62,000 from capital campaign funds." Motion seconded and passed.

**2017 Financials/2018 Budget Highlights** – Julie Gerstenberger

- A successful "Foundation for the Future Campaign" with good progress on capital improvements.
- Energy usage below 3 year average
- Lily Grant received for Pastor Aileen's Sabbatical
- \$50,128 given to Benevolence
- 2017 Operating Income was lower than anticipated; several factors may have contributed: Capital Campaign, sabbatical, changes in worship times, and reduced building use income.
- To present a balanced budget, we are presenting a lower budget of \$278,000 this year to reflect lower anticipated income.
- A Financial Forum was held January 21 to review the proposed budget in detail
- Tom Johnson responded to a question about use of the Memorial Fund for some expenses (e.g. capital improvements). When money is given by a person designated for a specific purpose, we need to honor that. The restriction is a NYS Law.

- Motioned and Seconded and passed that we approve the 2018 budget of \$278,000

**Lutheran Church of Concord Update** - Sandy Volta - President of Concord presented the following report:

Concord has had a rich history and this week we celebrate our 108th birthday, we are now facing a difficult period as we have experienced aging membership and declining attendance. The leadership of Concord has looked into options for the future, and has worked over the past several months to inform the congregation of the need to make the hard decisions ahead of us as we realize that the doors of Concord need to close.

We have struggled through a grieving process as we face that reality. We have been blessed by the option presented to us by Pastor Aileen to explore finding a new church home at Messiah. We are so appreciative of the willingness of the people of Messiah to make changes in their worship times so that our members could get to know Pastor Aileen and many of the members here, you have embraced us and made us feel welcome. We recognize the sacrifices being made here to create a path for us and we sincerely thank you for all that you are doing to walk with us and comfort us.

While we know closing Concord must happen it has been difficult for people to accept. To help our members prepare for the next steps, we hold monthly Concord Updates to inform them of the steps ahead of us, of the discussions at our Council meetings and the efforts of our Ad Hoc Committee and your Accompaniment Team. We have shared the ELCA booklet on Holy Closure which discusses not only the steps but the emotions to be dealt with. We have held small group discussions using the same questions that were discussed at your meetings. The many joint services and committee meetings provide us with excellent opportunities to become familiar with you and be inspired by the dedicated and faithful people of Messiah. Concord held our Annual Congregation Meeting last week and part of the information shared with our members was the average attendance for last year, which was approximately 31 Concord members plus Messiah members who attend our 9:00 service, which is down from 38 in 2015 and 2016. We now believe the members are ready for the decisions that need to be made.

A Special Congregation Meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2018 when the members of The Lutheran Church of Concord will vote on starting the process of dissolution and listing our church property for sale. There is much work ahead of us and we look forward to working with the leadership here to develop the specifics.

**Transformational Ministry Team at Concord** - Reggie Renz, Leader of the Transformational Ministry Team, shared with us what Concord has been doing in conjunction with Holmes Rd. School and the Backpack Ministry. She issued an invitation for members from Messiah to join in this endeavor and will help to set us up with times and trainings.

**New Business** - Tom Johnson – We have changed our payment processor to eliminate fees, so participants in the Simply Giving program will be getting a letter about the need to update their payment information.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer - Pastor Aileen**

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Ligtenberg  
Secretary