

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
63rd Annual Congregational Meeting – January 29, 2023
Called into community, gifted to serve.
Glorifying God through love in action.

We met remotely via Zoom to meet current Synod guidelines. Most people were using Zoom and could see the presentation including financial data. Some members were using their phones for audio. The hard copy 2022 Annual Report had been available and distributed.

Meeting Logistics – We went over logistics for the meeting. The microphones were muted to eliminate background noise; however, we could use the Chat window or unmute to ask a question. We could also raise a hand if on camera. Looking at attendance we had 68 people and met the criteria for a quorum. We tested the audio quality for members using their phones for sound.

Voting would be done by Zoom Meeting Poll; all confirmed members 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. Assistance 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 30, 2022 62nd Annual Meeting. The motion was made to approve the meetings as written and they were approved by visual voting.

Pastor's Report – Highlights of Pastor's report include details of the families served through food distribution and the backpack program for children. 72 families were served Thanksgiving dinners, Angel Tree gifts, and Christmas dinners. Pastor thanked everyone for their time and service.

Letter from Bishop Rev. Lee Miller – The annual report included a letter from the bishop which advised us about a restructuring and reforming of the synod systems. The synod staff are building new ways of serving congregations, communities, and leaders.

Pastoral Assistant Report – Pastor Hans shared details of his pastoral care service during another year impacted by the pandemic. He also served by leading Ubuntu and Messiah Adult Studies and participating with the Stephen Ministry and especially Food Distribution.

Music Director – Willie LaFavor also thanked people who were helping Messiah transition to in-person worship. The choir was restarted, and the bell choir continues to need more members. Willie thanked many people for their continued support.

Congregation President – Joanne wrote also about the changes that we all made when we returned to worship in person, including several ways we encouraged small groups and social opportunities.

Ministry Reports (Written) – Everyone was encouraged to read all the written reports in the Annual Report for details and any questions were answered.

Council Elections – Elections included 3 nominees: Jim Hartmann for Stewardship, Laurie Simonson for Communications, and Amy Trichanh for Youth and Family. A motion was made and seconded. The vote which included phone participants was 64 yes and 4 no. The motion was passed.

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Synod Assembly Representatives Election – We nominated Larry Dennis and Shelly Knapp to represent Messiah at the 2023 Synod Assembly. The motion was made and seconded; the vote was unanimously approved with 64 votes.

Endowment Fund Representatives Election – the Annual Report included a definition of the Endowment fund. Nomination for the 2023 board of trustees are Brad Roberts, Gary Cantleberry, Ellen Meyer, and Jeff Gerstenberger. The trustees were approved with 63 votes.

2022 Financial Highlights –

- We reviewed the financial reports: 2022 Designated Funds, Endowment Fund, 2022 Balance Sheet, and 2022/2023 Projected Income. We reviewed the proposed 2023 budget and questions were asked and answered.
- The proposed **2022** budget was \$347,700. The actual at year end was \$338,892.
- The 2023 proposed budget is \$345,718.
- We detailed the changes made at the Congregational Financial Meeting based on congregational input.
- Process was followed to approve the \$345,718 2023 budget. It was unanimously approved with 64 votes via polling and telephone.
- Realities we are facing – changes are coming. We balanced the budget; however, the property costs are becoming more expensive each year. We need visioning for a thriving church. Evangelism, inviting people. Embracing families with children. Continue our collaboration with other churches.

New Business – There was no new business.

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

Submitted by Laurie Simonson