

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

February 8th, 2015

FAIRBANKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to accept: Mark Huffington, 2nd: Kathy Birch Agenda Approved

Opening Devotion by Pastor Mark Peterson

Minutes of Last Meeting, read and approved:

Motion to accept: Sig Strandberg; 2nd: Al Holmberg. Minutes voted approved.

Co-President's Report:

Ruth Carson and Sara Harvison's report highlighted the challenges involved in the year with the basement flooding. Our congregation responded (not reacted) to the challenges and now we have beautiful space throughout the church for community and congregation use. All financial obligations have been met, even while other issues diverted our attention. Our church still participated in the events we hold dear and additionally we hosted the 2014 Synod Assembly. The council has been working with Pastor Susan Granata to form the Ministry Profile Committee. Our Constitution and By-Laws are being updated to reflect ELCA guidelines and current practices at FLC. Special thanks to Cindy Olsen for her tireless work in coordinating the Thrivent Action teams. Thanks were also given to Mike Cook and Vanessa Jackson for their continuing work on the church Constitution and By-Laws.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim began with thanks to Millie Dufseth for her continued guidance in church financial matters. An overview of the church's 2014 budget was given and explanations for why we are under budget. An accounting of the wet basement renovation was given. The proposed budget was presented. Giving currently stands at a healthy amount, but there are many expenses on the horizon such as moving a pastor to Fairbanks. Also, our budget is more in the upcoming year.

Pastor's Report:

A review was given of Pastor Susan Granata's time with us. She helped in many areas of the church and helped to transition us from one pastorate to prepare for the search for another. She found us to be a healthy congregation. Pastor Mark Peterson also finds us to be a healthy and diverse group of Lutherans. He cautions us to remember that we cannot predict how long a pastor will stay here, even as he understands that we long to have a pastor lead us for more than three or four years. He reminds us that pastors also need encouragement and support, as we are taught in Romans 10 *"love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."* God is good and God is among us.

Agenda Item One: Call for Nominations

President: Sharon Cook motions to nominate Mark Huffington as Council President. Sara Harvison 2nd.

Vice-President: Jerry Flodin moves to nominate Tom Alton as the Council Vice-President. Mark Huffington 2nd.

Secretary: Vanessa Jackson notes that she has been performing this function since last summer and is happy to continue. No opposition.

Treasurer: Jim Lewandoski to continue by consensus of the congregation.

Council –at-Large: Sara Harvison and Ruth Carson will continue on council for a second term.

Alaska Synod Voting Members: Mark Huffington volunteered. Trina Anderson may be able to attend. Vanessa can serve as a back-up.

2015-16 Nominating Committee: Arlene Orbeck, Kathy Alton and Sharon Cook agreed to serve.

Move for vote: Mike Cook moves that we vote for a unanimous ballot. Jim Lewandoski seconds.
Motion Carries. Ballot approved.

Committee Reports *(list from the Constitution and By-laws)*

Mutual Ministry Committee:

This is like a personnel committee. Kathy Alton, Bev Higdon and Kim Huffington have agreed to serve.

Property:

All was tranquil until summer. An overview of the Wet Basement saga was given and many thanks were given to the volunteers who gave of their time from everything to clean-up, wet-vacuuming, donating food, demolition and reconstruction. Parsonage repair was deferred because of wet basement concerns. The yard continues to be mowed by volunteers. Al Holmberg continues to donate his time to snowplow and snow removal from the parking lots. Martin's Moppers continue to clean the church, but the numbers are dwindling and more are needed. We may have to hire help in the upcoming year. Jerry also answered questions about the sinks. The church properties are overall in great shape. The parsonage is older and does need attention.

Education:

Children's Sunday School has grown 67%. Vacation Bible School served about 75 children. This also serves as a ministry outreach to some of the older tweens and teens who help out. A small children's choir has been started that meets after the second service. Confirmation is currently serving six teens using a mix of Reform and Here We Stand. There were approximately 20 children in the Christmas Program led by Sharon Lockwood. Mary Martha Bible Study meets weekly and the Miriam Circle meets monthly. Adult Sunday School meets between services in the conference room. The Education Committee is looking for someone to represent the interests of adult education on the committee. Many thanks and much gratitude is given to all those who give their time to education our youth. A caution was given that we run the risk of having children's Sunday School without teachers some weeks because we do not have enough volunteers to staff the classes. The need for teachers was really highlighted.

Building Fund Pledge Report

Pledge Drive Three runs from May 2014 to April 2017. There were 52 pledges for this 3-year cycle totaling \$280,366. Pledge funds received in 2014 were \$117,634 which includes the final four months of Pledge Drive Two, and the first eight months of Pledge Drive Three.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

In 2014, there were 9 prayer shawl creators. A total of 19 shawls were made and a total of 27 shawls were distributed. 7 went to Faith Lutheran in Delta for their Grief Group and 2 went to Table of Grace Lutheran in Bethel. The other 18 went to family, friends, and neighbors. Members are encouraged to talk to Cindy Olsen if they know of a need for a prayer shawl. It is a creator's choice (crochet, knit, other) for donations.

Reception Committee Report

The volunteers on this committee have done a wonderful job doing the majority of the work for several funerals/memorials this year. They provide cookies, set up and clean up so that families can eliminate this portion of the service from an already stressful time. They are available for funerals/memorials at any time, but ask for three weeks' notice for other receptions so that they can ensure that they have the help and supplies on hand. This group is also looking for new members. There are only two short meetings a year. Contact Arlene Orbeck at 474-0072 or notify the church office if you would like to serve with this committee.

Fairbanks Lutheran Church Women's Report

A detailed accounting of income and disbursement was given. Kim Huffington shared thanks as the manager of Hospice because they were overwhelmed with the donation.

Memorial Committee

A detailed accounting of funds was submitted by Elrita Magoffin.

Mortgage Retirement Committee

This has been renamed the **GOOD committee** (approved by Council), which stands for Get Out Of Debt. A review of the mission of the committee was given along with an overview of the accounting that occurred during the year. We look forward to reaching a point where we owe six digits instead of seven in this upcoming year!

The committee had many thanks and recognitions to give: Tom Alton, Cathy Birkliid, Jim Matthews, Warrack Wilson, Jerry Zellmer and Jim Lewandoski.

No other reports filed.

Approval of Reports:

John Orbeck motions to approve the committee reports. Sara Harvison seconds. Motion carries, no discussion.

Agenda Item Three: Presentation of the 2015 Budget

Jim Lewandoski went through the proposed budget and explained changes. Actual budgets for 2012, 2013 and 2014 were there as a reference.

Questions: Arlene Orbeck asked about upgrades to the parsonage and suggested that we add another \$1000+ to line item 2505 (Parsonage Repair and Maintenance). Jerry Zellmer answered and agreed that we might need more. John Orbeck motions to change Line Item 2505 from \$2000 to \$4000. Ruth Carson 2nds. Motion Carries.

Jerry Zellmer thanks Jim Lewandoski for his hard work putting the budget together.

Other:

John Orbeck moves that we designate garage sale proceeds towards the new Pastor's moving expenses. Al Holmberg seconds. Motion passes.

Nancy Holmberg asked if people were really reading *The Lutheran* magazine. Sara Harvison moves that we address subscription costs at the first council meeting. Sharon Cook seconds. Council will address this issue.

Approval of the Budget:

Mike Cook motions to approve the budget as amended. John Orbeck seconds. Motion carries. Budget passed.

Move for Adjournment: Al Holmberg moves for adjournment. Kathy Alton seconds. Motion passes.

The congregation members in attendance close with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Vanessa Jackson