

# Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## FAIRBANKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

(draft minutes pending acceptance at 2018 annual meeting)

**Members Sign in**, food and fellowship

**Call to Order** at 12:52pm.

**Opening Devotion by Pastor** – video (Together We Stand) and a reading from Colossians. Additionally, we voiced the *Litany for Annual Congregation Meeting Opening Liturgy*.

**Quorum Announcement** – We have a quorum with 36 voting members signed in as reported by Vanessa Jackson, Council Secretary.

**Approval of Agenda** – Cheryl Markwood moves to approve, Arlene Orbeck seconds motion carries.

**Minutes of Last Congregational Meeting** (January 31, 2016) – Arlene Orbeck moves to approve as presented. Sig Strandberg seconds; motion carries.

**President's Report** – Much gratitude to everyone for what has been humbling experience over the last two years. Quarterly highlights were given. Outgoing thoughts encourage that the Council President be one of the voting synod members. Additional thoughts include the financial sustainability of our mission as a church. Without a margin, we have no mission. We face many of the same challenges as many other ELCA congregations, and thus far we have risen to the challenge. We have to be wise our annual budget and stick with it regardless of how painful it may be.

Last thought: It takes an entire congregation to build and sustain a church. Everyone's support is appreciated and is the very definition of being a Christian.

**Treasurer's Report** (6.00 min) – Thank you to Millie for her guidance and Mark for keeping meetings on track. An overview of the well-viewed chart summarizes where we are, what we've given, and where we wish to head next year. Any ideas for the 2017 budget (more cuts or more revenue) will be welcomed and recorded by the treasurer when we get to that portion of the meeting.

Simply giving was encouraged to make budgeting easier for the church because it is automatic and timely. It is even possible to put it on your Alaska Airlines card and get miles for your giving!

*\*Mark thanks Jim for all he does because what Jim does is significant and important. It's a tough, big job and you know where the money is going at all times.*

**Pastor's Report** (3.15 min) – Appreciation for those who do the work in front of and behind the scenes. New Jersey to Fairbanks has been an adjustment – but a good one. A call was given for the congregation to continue to make newcomers feel very welcome as Fairbanks has a 50% turnover in population every three years. It is a pleasure to be in ministry with the people of this congregation.

### **Agenda Item One: Election of 2017-2018 Congregational Council Positions**

Thank you to the nominating committee of Arlene Strandberg and Tom Alton.

Call for Nominations:

President – David Ingram

Vice President – council will choose

Secretary – Skylar Holman

Treasurer –

Council at Large – Lucy Andresen, Denise Kind, Mikey Jackson

Alaska Synod Assembly Voting Members – Evie Freeman, David Ingram, Mikey Jackson to be the alternate.

Nominating Committee Members - Kathy Alton (council to fill additional members later)

Close Nominations – John Orbeck moves to accept; Evie Freeman seconds.

**Move to vote individually or casting of Unanimous Ballot** - Bob Andresen moves to suspend parliamentary procedure and vote the whole slate at once. Sig Strandberg seconds. Motion carries.

The entire slate was approved. Installation of officers will be on February 26, 2017.

### **Agenda Item Two: Ministry (Committee) reports from 2016 to Congregation**

Nominating Ministry

Audit Ministry – Bob notes that we are very fortunate with Jim in how he gave of his time and access to reports. We are very fortunate to have him.

Mutual Ministry Ministry–The purpose of this ministry was reviewed. It has met twice with Pastor John to go over surveys.

Memorial Fund Ministry- (4.00 min) Memorial funds were used to pay for the casters for the piano from the Jeanette Olsen Music memorial funds. Suggestion by a congregation member has been made to use Memorial funds to perhaps purchase an AED for the church. It is noted that training and continuing maintenance on the device will be needed. Council will take that up.

FLC Women's Fund Ministry (.30 min)- An accounting of funds was rendered in the report.

Mortgage Retirement [Get Out of Debt (GOOD)] Ministry (6:36 min) – Excitement over getting under the one million dollar mark. The report includes a detailed accounting of how all funds for this ministry were managed over 2016. It is hoped that people find it in their hearts and pocketbooks to make principle payments as well as their pledges for the next three years so that we can continue to make our regular monthly payments. The new interest rate will be given to us in April for the next five years, but we will know the exact rate until the letter comes. It is hoped that the rate remains at or below 4.375%. We will be coming into a new pledge drive in this upcoming year.

Building Pledge Ministry (4:19 min) – 52 pledges for this three-year cycle totaling 280 thousand and we have met that amount! This year's collections were \$96,946. Our continued support is needed and appreciated so we can continue our good work as a church. "Building Up the Temple" is our new theme for our next three-year cycle. Cathy Birkliid is the person to contact for Simply Giving and she can get you signed up. Options range from one time only to monthly or even weekly. It was noted by the GOOD ministry that someone from Alaska needed to be our speaker for this drive Lisa Smith-Fiegel from the Alaska Synod will be our speaker and motivator for our pledge drive for this cycle as we build up our temple! Pastor is looking forward to everyone's participation.

Property Ministry – Mark thanks Jerry for all that he does. Review of all these who volunteer selflessly to the church's property needs and what was done.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (2:02 min) – This is a no cost ministry. We use yarn that is donated. 13 were made and 13 were distributed. They are located in the Parish Nurse's office and are logged so that we can make sure that we give to those in need. Just see Cindy Olsen for what is needed if you want to make one or if someone needs one.

Education Ministry (1:28 min) – We have a small number of kids and they are active and enjoy coming. We take turns teaching. We added a pre-school group that Pam Van Haneghan teaches. Almost 60 came to a well-attended VBS and over 20 volunteers. Lois Heine notes gratitude for all who teach and all who lead and all who learn.

**Stewardship Ministry** – no report.

Other Ministry Reports received-

**Wellness committee** (:20 min) – Ruth is heading this up. It is to look at and focus on the mental and physical aspects of our lives and to strengthen these as a way of committing our service to God and our community.

**2016 Christmas Bazaar Annual Report** (2:08 min) – 47 of 49 spaces were rented out. The report includes a run-down of how the process works to put on this bazaar and how it was received.

Approval of Reports – John Orbeck moves to approve and Barb Pierson seconds. Motion carries.

**Agenda Item Three: Presentation of the 2017 Budget**

*\*note more cuts were needed. Council met multiple times and tried to whittle down from \$284,000 to match what giving was in 2016 and we got as close as a \$16,000 gap between giving and the proposal.*

Jim went through the categories and reviewed for members present the different sections of the budget proposed s compared to what was spent in 2016 and what was approved in 2016. Cindy reminds us that this is a prime idea for a Thrivent Action team project. It is noted that although it appears at if there is no budget for youth or education, that we maintain a healthy youth account and monies from that account.

### Questions

Arlene Orbeck: Was there discussion of giving more of the money from the Christmas Bazaar to outside entities. Jim: In the past it was 100%, but due to financial exigencies, that did not happen this year.

Kim Huffington: Why does the balance sheet show such high balances in the checking account in 2014. She wonders if the final gap will be more than \$16,000. Jim: Other years had a much larger gap in budget and proposals. We get better every year. He does not think the balance sheet figures play into it at all.

Pastor John notes that a tough place in the budget is the music portion. He wants to commend our music ministry because that is one of things our church is known for and that it bring in a lot of people to our church and provides outreach as well as worship.

**Approval of the 2017 Budget** - Move for Acceptance of the 2017 Budget – John Oreck moves to accept the budget as presented. Sig Strandberg seconds. The budget for 2017 passes.

**Old Business**- Trina Anderson is now Interior Cluster representatives since Verna Henkel moved. Trina will also be a voting member at the Synod Assembly. Trina also suggests that we use the model from last summer of alternating service styles (one service per week) to help lighten the load on Alter guild, etc.

**New Business** – Barb Pierson would like to plant a seed that we host an intern. We might need to pursue grants or deeper pockets, but she believes that we are ready for this big step despite what the budget might indicate. She passes this to Council, but Council should feel free to contact her to help make it happen.

**Move for Adjournment** – Jeremy Jackson moved to adjourn Kim Huffington seconds. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

**Closing Prayer – Lord's Prayer**