

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
December 10, 2017**

The Annual Congregational Meeting to approve congregational meeting minutes, to adopt 2018 budget and to elect council persons was held Sunday, December 10, 2017, in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Burkhart opened the meeting with prayer. Doug Riley, President, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen. Purpose of the meeting was to elect four persons to the congregation council, to adopt the 2018 budget, to approve congregational meeting minutes of February 14, 2016 and December 11, 2016, and to review the 2016 annual reports.

Congregational Minutes: Leroy Zellers, second by Earl Bowman, moved to accept the congregational minutes of February 12, 2016, and December 11, 2016. The motion carried.

Election of Council Members: Doug Riley thanked the council members whose terms expire December 31, 2017. Those members are Bob Colehouse, Tim Coppersmith, Kirby Hoke and Cindy Schmidt. Doug Riley presented the slate of candidates to the congregation: Wayne Butler, Kirby Hoke, Diana Leppo and Cindy Schmidt. Doug Riley stated that the candidates for council came as a motion from council for the congregation to approve the candidates. The motion carried.

Review of 2016 Annual Reports: There were no questions pertaining to the 2016 reports.

2018 Budget: Doug Riley thanked the Finance Committee and all committees who contributed to the budget process. The 2018 budget came as a motion from council for the congregation's adoption. Sherry Cracium-Bolin answered questions concerning the budget which is a balanced budget and a very tight budget. Questions addressed are as follows:

- 1) **Removal of visitation pastor line item** – Until the budget supports a visitation pastor, Pastor Bob will make two visits a year to the shut-ins in addition to any needed pastoral care visits. In addition, the Eucharistic Ministry Program will be reinstated. Pastor Burkhart stated that the role of the visitation pastor is one of continuity between the homebound and the congregation as well as to engage in friendly conversation. Pastor Burkhart stated that the role of senior pastor in this congregation has been in the role of providing pastoral care in time of crisis.
- 2) **Lay volunteers** – Pastor Haack stated that by Russ Kaltreider leading worship on November 26th saved the congregation \$305.00 that would have been paid to an ordained staff. The question arose that Sunday by a parishioner about lay person consecrating the elements when ordained pastors were in attendance. Lay staff uses preconsecrated elements in the absence of ordained staff. Pastor Haack asked about recognition for volunteers. There is a budget line for vacation staff replacements which includes supply pastors and organists.
- 3) **Lay Staff Reduction in Salary** - Peg Sennett explained that the Lay Staff came forward and offered to work one less day a week during the summer, and Gretchen Walter combined the Cherub and Children Choirs into one which cut her salary in half. This resulted in savings of \$9,050.00. Peg also requested that the Lay Personnel Committee be involved in future discussion regarding lay staff.
- 4) **Youth Budget Line** – The youth line item was removed from the budget as they currently have a healthy bank account balance supported by their fund raisers. Removing the budget line item does not mean that council or the congregation does not support them. For special events, the Adventures in Ministry Fund is available to use with council's approval.
- 5) **Consecration Sunday** – The results of Consecration Sunday show a 1.5 % to 2% increase in giving for 2018.

- 6) **Health Insurance** – The question was raised why there is such a difference between the lay staff premiums and the pastoral health premiums. The two fulltime employees are on their spouses' policies and are reimbursed for that premium. Pastor Burkhart's health insurance through Portico sponsored by the ELCA.
- 7) **Capital Fund Campaign** – The question was raised about using funds designated to Capital Funds for the operating account. The policy is to use the funds as the donor requests them to be used so if they designate a giving to the Capital Campaign that is where the funds go.

With no further questions, Doug Riley asked for a vote. The motion carried.

Pastor Burkhart closed the meeting with prayer.

Russ Kaltreider, second by Tom Miller, moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Submitted by,

Linda Zellers
Secretary