

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 29, 2017

Call to Order: The annual meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President, Keith Gray. There was a quorum of 10% of church members with 50 church members present. Gil thanked everyone for their support throughout the year and for their attendance at the meeting. Nan Eberhardt served as Parliamentarian.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Joshua Rinas

Agenda: MMSP Dot Novak/Dick Koss

Minutes of last Annual Congregational Meeting: Carol Paradis noted that her term expires January 2017, not 2018. Financial secretaries are Joe Novak and Erwin Dressel, not Dave Brayfield (p. 4). MMSP with corrections. Dot Novak/Ellen Dressel

Election of Council Members: As nominees to Council for a second term, Wayne Johnson nominated Dick Koss, Arlene Mobarak and Cathy Morris. Carol Paradis was thanked for her time on Council.

Term Expired January, 2017	Term Expires January, 2018	Term Expires January, 2019
Dick Koss (1)	Sandra Anderson (1)	Virginia Nichols (2)
Arlene Mobarak (1)		Jim Jarboe
Cathy Morris (1)		Keith Gray (1)

Nominees: Term to Expire January 2020
Robert Johnston (1)
Dwayne Masse (1)

MMSP to elect and accept the two nominees, Robert Johnston and Dwayne Masse, as new members of the Council: Wayne Johnson/Dottie Novak

Report of Pastor: Pastor Rinas commented that this past year we saw good results in some areas and not so in others. Our learning continues with changing programs and we need to keep experimenting. All churches, especially in the northeast, are losing members. Sunday Camp didn't go well with the time change made, so a few things were changed and we are experiencing more positive results. We need to continue experimenting and we need everyone's support for it to be successful.
 MMSP to accept Pastor's Report: Dot Novak/Dave Brayfield

Parish Administrator's Report: Written report. MMSP: Dave Brayfield/Ellen Dressel

President's Report: Written report. MMSP: Dave Brayfield/Dawne Naples

Finance Report: Written report. Dave Brayfield explained not all money is usable for the General Fund. The year ended with \$643 in the checking account. Assets are \$258,687.77 which includes Memorials. Some of that is designated and not usable for the General Fund. Envelopes are down a bit from 2016. Rental income was nice. We spent \$34,476.39 more than we took in. We need @ \$14,000/month to fund the budget. Some income is not from envelopes.

MMSP: Jim Anderson/Ellen Dressel

Committee Reports

MMSP: to accept all the committee reports at once. Carol/Nan

Mutual Ministry No written report. Dawne said the committee is a standing committee and the format is six members. Each year Council and Pastor are to each appoint a member. Nan reported the committee met as needed. Pastor Rinas said Mutual Ministry should not be a committee to receive complaints. We should go to the person directly. It is in our Constitution, Chapter 13, and in the Bible how we resolve conflict.

The Personnel committee also met.

Covenant to Care: Vivian Craven read a letter from a social worker and thanked everyone for their generosity for the program.

Evangelism: No report

Christian Education: Written report. Ilona Bradley was thanked for what she does for the program.

FLY: Written report. Kim Gray mentioned we had two from First in attendance at the lock-in. Attendance is lower than she would like. There are many more eligible to attend. There's more than the Sunday service. There's Calumet, the 2018 Youth Gathering. Thank you to Kim for the job she's doing.

Fair: Written report. Kim Gray reported the highest attendance ever and response is positive. The next meeting will decide if a next fair will be held. The committee is desperately looking for more help. Pastor Rinas asked that people prayerfully considering helping. Keith thanked the Fair Committee for their donation to the Scholarship Committee for the external scholarship.

Parish Life: Written report. Keith Gray reported working at the Apple Harvest Festival and having fun. Monies are kept in the fund for extraordinary expenses not in the General Fund.

Property: Written report. Paul Brann thanked people for helping with special projects around the property. Virginia reported the nursery has been painted. Keith Morris asked about a sign. It is not in the 2017 budget. Bill Ludecke will spend as little as possible on the community garden.

Scholarship: Written report. Jim Anderson reported the Fair Committee gave \$1,000 so now there is money for three years of External Scholarships.

Caring and Sharing: Written report

Vacation Bible Camp with Calumet: Written report. Sandra Anderson reported a new coordinator is needed to take this over. Pastor Rinas thanked Sandra for her work.

Golf Committee: Written report. Carol Paradis reported people are need to solicit for items and T-signs. There were 20 fewer golfers, but more money was made. Hopefully, we'll have some sort of program this year. \$6,000 was moved to the General Fund.

Worship and Music: Written report. Tyler Boyle talked about the successes of the program here, particularly Christmas and Easter and the help by individuals here. The concert was a success and a sequel is in the works for the spring to show the community what we have to offer here. Tyler will be finishing his Master's degree work this summer. He thanks Myrna for her assistance.

NE Synod Assembly: Jim Anderson reported on this.

MMSP to accept Committee Reports: Ellen Dressel/Dot Novak

Organization Reports:

Women's Guild: Written report. Lillian Sewell said cushions are a luxury now and they will probably get a few cushions. She thanked all who helped with the Fair.

MMSP to accept Organization Reports: Keith Gray/Ellen Dressel

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Reconciling in Christ:** Wendy Henderson asked what Council what is being planned for this. Pastor answered that it is open and affirming to those that are LGBTQ. This is the process for the ELCA church. Council talked about this a few months ago and plans haven't been made. Wendy would like to see this addressed in 2017.
- **2017 Budget:**
 - Gordon Grady explained numbers and answers questions at the January Council meeting and is present. Gordon explained the Holiday Fund is Thanksgiving and Christmas envelope offerings. Some Apple Harvest money was moved in 2016 and some will be moved in 2017. Dave mentioned that Ted Stevenson does a lot for us and proposes a \$100 gift card for him to be put under Financial Administration.

MMSP: Dave Brayfield/Pastor Rinas

- Dave Brayfield proposed increasing the Music Director's salary by \$1,000 to \$16,300.

MMSP: Dave Brayfield/Gordon Grady

- Dawne Naples questioned whether anyone spoke with staff in person regarding finances and salaries. Pastor Rinas said No. Dawne would like to make a recommendation that either council or the minister or someone designated by council to speak to all staff regarding the church's financial position. Pastor Rinas spoke about conflict resolution and what the ELCA constitution and the Bible says. A person who has an issue with another is to go to that person. If that doesn't resolve the issue, take another person with you. If that doesn't work, take the issue to the congregation. Mutual Ministry does not handle these issues.
- Council is putting together a task force to review and make changes to the Constitution and add new ELCA Amendments voted on in 2016 to our Constitution.
- Carol Paradis would like \$4,000 from the Golf tournament money to be set aside to a sign fund. (amended motion)

MMSP: Nan/Ellen

Motion to approve 2017 Budget: Wendy Henderson/Ellen Dressel.

Adjournment at 12:25 p.m. MMSP Ellen Dressel/Ann Anderson

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Anderson