

****Subject to approval by Council****

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017 Annual Meeting

February 4, 2018

The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church was called to order on February 4, 2018, at 10:35 a.m. in the sanctuary by President Mary Deters.

Serving as Parliamentarian: Len Myrah

MSC (Mark Schroeder, Judy Tollefsrud) to suspend the rules in order to continue with the meeting without a quorum.

Interim Pastor Jim Scaife opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of February 12, 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

MSC (Fred Arnold, Helen Solum) to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Acceptance of Financial Reports

Barb Arnold explained the year-end financial reports. She thanked the congregation for their continued financial support and generosity. The \$30k deficit was reduced to \$11,415 by year end; the \$14k cash flow fund however was not paid back. \$27,925 in debt retirement monies was given by the congregation and \$16k was given to mission work outside our congregation. Trinity received special recognition at the SE Synod gathering for our generosity beyond our congregational giving.

In 2018, a new bookkeeping system will track income and expenses more easily. Special thanks to Lorilyn Dehning for volunteering her time and talents towards these improvements.

MSC (Jim Gray, Saundy Solum) to accept the financial reports.

Presentation of Ministry Support Fund

Trinity has received a generous gift of \$50k. The gift, given for ministry support, is to aid the Call Committee. In January, the Council approved a proposal to disperse these funds and it was also approved by the donors, who wish to remain anonymous. A full copy of the proposal is attached to January's Council minutes and on our website: trinitysg.org. It is our prayer that this gift will enhance the ministry at Trinity and will equally bless the givers.

Jan Kraabel, chair of the Call Committee gave a brief update, sharing that they are in conversation with a candidate who is very interested in rural ministry. Two interviews have been completed and conversations continue.

Acceptance of the 2017 Ministry and Ministry Support Reports

Each Team Leader submitted a report of the year's activities which are printed in the Annual Report.

Pastor's Remarks

Pastor Scaife shared how God has blessed us over the last year with insights for the ministry at Trinity and with blessings. With humor he shared that "the only thing worse than having a pastor is not having a pastor". We have had many staff changes and **God has blessed us** with people of faith who have taken these positions. By focusing on ways to coordinate, motivate, educate, and build relationships, the ministry team stands ready to incorporate the gifts of a new pastor and address the needs of the congregation.

He challenged us to be aware of present day realities as they affect worship attendance, giving, volunteers, and programming. **God has blessed us** with awareness that changes happen but what we value can continue – meaningful worship, care of the elderly and grieving, ministry and mission, and Christian growth for children, youth and adults.

God has blessed us with leaders who bring their gifts, their faith, their prayers and a positive spirit to all gatherings and decisions.

Finally, he encouraged us to adopt a 3-5 year long range planning approach, instead of year to year. He challenged us to view our stewardship as a faithful response (the joy of giving) instead of an end of the year "bail out".

He gave thanks for the leadership of Steve Kemp and Mary Deters, who have served as President of the Congregation during the interim period.

Presentation of the 2018 Proposed Budget and Vote

Lorilyn Dehning presented the 2018 budget. She thanked the congregation for their continued financial support, the Finance Team for all their work on the budget, and the Council for their support.

She noted the following:

- Decreased weekly offering amount to reflect a more realistic budget
- Special accounts are going to be utilized for specific things—to help offset some costs
- Sale of 2nd parsonage—at \$110k, they will be recommending \$60k to Property, \$30k to Budget, and \$14k to repay cash flow fund
- Under Expenses: decreased Synod benevolence from 9% to 5%
- Cost of Tuck pointing: \$40k (\$23-25k from Heritage Endowment)

Discussion followed regarding the proposed decrease to synod benevolence. Remarks were shared from Mission in the World Team (Steve Nelson, Janna Myrah). They recommended to the Council that a consistent 10% be given; however, the Council approved the 2018 Budget Proposal at the January meeting. For the record they wanted to express that one of the main ways that we fulfill our call is through our gifts to the synod in mission support. Our monies are sent undesignated and used where the need is greatest. Our benevolence gift helps us reach more people in more ways—more than we can do alone. For more information, they suggested the synod website: elca.org/faithinaction.

MS (Jan Kraabel, Rick Sundet) to accept the proposed 2018 Budget. By a show of hands the **Motion carried**.

Presentation of the 2018 Ballot

The ballot for 2018 was presented. Thanks to the nominating committee (Debra Spence, Jean Ellingson, Mary Deters) for their work putting the ballot together. Thanks to all who said YES and to all who served.

MSC (Milly Halverson, Steve Nelson) to approve the 2018 Ballot.

Nominations were accepted from the floor for Education, Mission in the World, Support-Staffing, and Heritage Endowment.

MSC (Jim Gray, Mark Schroeder) to accept the 2018 Ballot.

Jan Kraabel, Steve Nelson, and Fred Arnold volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Jacque Wennes asked to serve as an alternate to the 2018 Synod Assembly.

Other Business

None

A closing prayer was given by Pastor Scaife.

MSC (Mark Schroeder, Jim Gray) to adjourn the 2017 Annual Meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bingham