



SERVING GOD, CHANGING LIVES!
HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2017

Call to Order

Jon Evans called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Hosanna Sanctuary.

Prayer

Pastor Bill Schwertlich offered opening prayer.

Declaration of a Quorum

Secretary Pat Gibbons advised a quorum was present with 60 members in attendance.

Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes

Minutes for 03/19/2017 Congregational Meeting were presented by Jon Evans for review. Chad Greer called for a motion to approve minutes. Bob Dejmala seconded the motion, it unanimously passed.

Election of Council Slate – David Vroom, Lay Leadership Team Leader

David Vroom presented the proposed slate of candidates for election to Congregation Council. The proposed list and position each candidate will fill is shown below:

1. Christy Hall - Spiritual Life Team
2. Mindy Williams - Discipleship Team
3. Bernie Brown - Care Team

Maureen Kennedy motioned to accept, Pam Wells seconded the motion. The congregation unanimously approved the election of this slate of candidates.

Nancy Agafitei asked about the Stewardship Team Leader position on council as there was no candidate on the slate. Jon Evans replied that there are no candidates, and felt there still was time to seek a person before September when new Council terms begin. Council feels this is an important position and we shouldn't just rush to fill the position to say it is done.

Election of Discipleship Team Leader to fill unexpired term - David Vroom, Lay Leadership Team Leader

David Vroom, Lay Leadership, proposed that Mindy Williams fulfill the remaining unexpired term of Shonna Harden as Discipleship Team Leader.

Steve Bridges motioned to accept, Ron Christ seconded the motion. The congregation unanimously approved.



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Call Committee Update – Susan Greer, Call Committee Chair

After 4 months of continuous work the Call Committee has completed the Mission Profile Site (MSP). The Call Committee will do a final review this coming week. The Council will meet with committee to review also before it is submitted to the synod. Please refer to narrative presented by Susan Greer at the meeting for more detail. See **EXHIBIT A**. The next phase will be to prepare for interviews. Susan also thanked the Care Team for providing meals to help keep expenses down and make sure those devoting their time to this endeavor were sufficiently fed to make progress on this important task.

Lawn Care Service Report – Steve Bridges, Stewardship Team Member

Steve Bridges presented a motion to a proposal that we contract with Augusta Landscaping at the rate \$215/mowing. This equates to \$860/month; \$10,320 annually. This service has Workers' Compensation and Liability insurance. David Vroom seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Augusta lawn service has been temporarily cutting the grass to see how well they performed. Thus far, Bill King is pleased with the service and has seen no damage since they have been mowing the grass per Steve. The prior lawn service cost was \$600/month without any insurances and did considerable damage to the property such as the sprinkler system. It is now out of business. Also Augusta will weed the gardens periodically.

Becky Wolf and others discussed the budget since it has not included this increase for lawn service fees. Discussion was held regarding where the monies are paid from - General Fund or Special Funds. Becky clarified that it comes out of the General Fund. If the Special Funds are to be used then Jeff Hartmann who is team leader of Stewardship would need to designate the Benches & Pavers - Memorial fund to be used for lawn mowing costs.

The congregation unanimously approved Augusta as lawn service and at the agreed upon contract cost. **EXHIBIT B** shows the quotes of various lawn mowing businesses that we asked & includes Augusta.

Mission of the Month Restructuring Report – Jeff Hartmann, Stewardship Team Leader

A proposal was submitted to revise the Noisy Offering so as to open it up for other funding possibilities. Nancy Agafitei researched the Noisy Offering from a historical perspective and presented some pretty amazing statistics of the success of the mission throughout the years. Over \$91,700 was collected for 29 missions for a period of 10 years. Perhaps we look at the budget to see what we already give to through covenants, or those missions we give to more than once per year as opportunities to open the Noisy Offerings to other good opportunities.

The proposal and research shows in detail in **Exhibit C**. Nancy Agafitei motioned that Hosanna "clear one occasion per quarter on our calendar to be reserved for new missions selected by the Benevolence/Stewardship Team. The remainder can be filled by our regular missions in which our



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giving remains solid and our volunteers remain active.” Ron Christ seconded the motion.

Discussion was held -

- Jeff Chestnut - wanted to know how many of the noisy offerings received more monies from the Hosanna budget than the Noisy Offerings.
- Becky Wolf -we have no choice with budgeted missions but the Noisy Offering gives congregation the choice to give to missions that a person favors.
- Jon Evans - we can still include original missions as in the past and yet this proposal allows us to add flexibility into the Noisy Offering process. It allows for other opportunities.
- Bob Dejmal - mentioned that the Helping Hands fund exists for more individualized causes.

A vote was taken with only one no vote from Jeff Chestnut to accept the proposal.

We still need a Mission of the Month Coordinator because Susan Greer has stepped down.

Becky Wolf - We need to let Kelly Fontenot know about this change.

Old Business – Jon Evans, President

Steve Bridges indicated that the #1 item on the R & R list was accomplished which was the repair of the roof.

New Business – Jon Evans, President

Kathy Burns raised some key points about finances. The General Fund balance as of \$27,242 and the projected amount was \$36,400 so we were lower than the Budget expectation. In Jan 2017 the GF balance was \$28,685, in Feb the balance was approximately \$23k and by the end of March 2017 the GF balance was down to \$20, 351. Finance has some concerns with this loss in GF balance. We currently are lower than Budget expectations so please remember to give even though vacation time is coming up.

The Family Life & Youth Director job is not filled yet which is helping us with non-budgeted item and lower income.

The Budget for 2017 did not include a line item for the Call Committee. We found out about Pr. John Boldt’s retirement too late to adjust the 2017 Budget. The Finance Team, Call Committee & Congregation Council are working together to determine a reasonable amount based on past Call Committee expenses. We are also receiving expert guidance from Pastor Bill Schwertlich’s on the additional areas that costs may be incurred in the upcoming phases of the Call process.

It was noted that Valerie Oden, Staff Support Team Leader & her team decided to reduce the Office



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Administrator's working hours to 20 hours and feel this will be sufficient when we do hire for that permanent position. This decision is based on the fact that all duties are being completed by the current temporary Office Administrator within 20 hours per week. Maureen Kennedy also reported on behalf of Valerie Oden, that Caty Oden will not be working Fridays with this reduction in hours.

Becky Wolf noted that attendance is down to the 90s, where in the past it ranged between 105 and 120 in attendance on most Sundays.

Nickie Brooks - thanked all for donations to pantry for NAM.

Jeff Hartmann briefly discussed the 2017 Synod Assembly Theme – **“Who is my neighbor?”**

- Members from different communities shared their stories and experiences. It was done in a TED talk style.
- Did you know that we have companion synods in Central African Republic and Peru?

Becky Wolf reported on the Synod Assembly business -

- Robert Rivera was elected as new Vice President of Synod Assembly.
- Bishop indicates we need to grow the church and its depth.
- Youth Gathering in Houston beginning June 27th, 2018.
- Financial report - shows synod in good standing.
- A balanced budget was approved.
- Remember we contribute to the synod and the missions.
- \$267,000 has been raised for hunger with a goal of \$500,000. Remember we contribute to this when we give to World Hunger each month to accomplish this goal.

Pastor Bill Schwertlich discussed some additional thoughts on this year's Synod Assembly –

- Hosanna is part of the mission to meet the ELCA goal of \$500,000 for World Hunger. This runs until October 31, 2017 which is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- “If you think about it we are probably in a type of Reformation even now”.
- Who is my neighbor? We need to be listening.
- It was interesting to hear the many speakers.
- There was a Muslim who spoke about his life.
- We need to talk around the table and walk alongside others
- Pastor Bill was elected to the Consultation Committee, which provides the Bishop with counsel on sensitive issues as needed.

Pastor Bill celebrated his 35th year of ordained ministry. He also reminded us that he celebrated his 25th year the last time he was serving at Hosanna. The congregation applauded his milestone of 35



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years and thanked him for his service.

A thank you was extended to those who attended Synod Assembly this year and for sharing some of it with us.

For the Good of the Church – All

It was announced that Confirmation will be on June 4, 2017 and a celebration would be had after worship recognizing this milestone.

VBS – Joyce Evans and Mindy Williams will be the leaders.

CREW – Monica Martin will be the lead on this group.

Ken Loudermilk and Pastor Bill Schwertlich – will be in charge of the Confirmation classes.

Bob Dejmaj – Fred who owns the property adjacent to Hosanna on the north side of us would like build a road along the water station. He wants to also have a sidewalk installed along the east side of Ella Blvd for approximately a mile. He has requested a letter of support for these endeavors from Hosanna. There is a letter from Fred that needs reviewed by Stewardship team and brought before Council ensure we are not committing to any financial support, etc.

Discussion also came up about the Habitat for Humanity land that was purchased between the Tires & More business and the MUD station. Per Chad Greer there are 60 lots available in that location and Habitat will build approximately 10 houses/yr. The building will not begin until 2018.

Dottie Kemper reminded us that beginning June 1st there will be residents living at Ella Springs' complex, adjacent to Hosanna on our south side. One of our members, Darlene Lindquist will be residing there. The Opening is June 12th and the Longest Day is slated for June 21st. We have a sidewalk that goes from Ella Springs to Hosanna. She also wanted thank Pastor Bill and Kathleen.

Ron Christ – reminded the congregation that we are helping with the Eichenroht Teachers Luncheon.

Jennifer Jackowski - thanked Joyce Evans for the work she does with Godly Play and how engaged the children are with it.

Jon Evans – thanked Steve Bridges for all the work he does alongside us.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Maureen Kennedy, seconded by Barbara Sorenson. All were in



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favor of adjournment at 12:32pm.

Closing Prayer – All arose and held hands in somewhat of a circle and we prayed the Lord’s Prayer!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Gibbons, Congregation Secretary