

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

February 6, 2022

The annual congregational meeting of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hatboro, PA was held on Sunday, February 6, 2022. In addition to in person attendance, the meeting was live streamed on Zoom for anyone wishing to attend virtually.

Council President Denise Betz called the meeting to order at 11:26 am.

Pastor Bannister then led the assembled and virtual congregation in devotions.

Mission and Vision Statements were pointed out.

Opening

- Congregational meeting minutes from the February 21, 2021 congregational meeting are attached. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as recorded (Harry Betz / Pat Ross) MOTION CARRIED

Reports

- Congregational Council Meeting Highlights from 2021
- Pastor Reimer's Annual Report
- Pastoral Acts 2021, Membership Report, and Confirmands
- Membership Report
- Council President Denise Betz's report.
- Minister of Music Michael Brinkworth's report. Michael also explained that the music program is once again gaining strength and coming back strong. Choir and bells will be coming back very soon.

Congregational Council Committee Reports

- Christian Education
- Hospitality
- Prayer Card Ministry
- Property
- Gardening Committee
- Social Ministry
- Stewardship
- Worship and Music
- Media Group

Congregation Organizational Reports

- Altar Guild
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Food Pantry – Rick Hudson noted that HatPacks is not mentioned in the report and asked the relationship between HatPacks and Food Pantry. Alan Eickhoff explained that HatPacks is in charge of Food Pantry, even though it's associated with three other churches. HatPacks took over the buying of food and have team of volunteers.
- Mutual Ministry –Denise explained the role of Mutual Ministry. Mary Bachman asked if it is a service of the Synod. Harry Betz explained that it is not, but the Synod recommends Mutual Ministry so that staff members are taking care of themselves, and that it is a volunteer ministry with members of the congregation.
- Needleworkers
- Women's Ministry

Financial Report

Harry Betz highlighted the summary page in the Annual Report (which precedes the detailed breakdown) and briefly explained reasons behind the financials.

A motion was made to accept the Financial reports as recorded.

It was moved and seconded by Finance Committee / Joe Kircher. MOTION CARRIED

Harry Betz explained that we had savings this year that are not sustainable, the most significant coming from having no senior pastor from August through December.

Overall, expenses have been going up and income has been going down.

Cathanne Bart asked who the finance committee members are since there is no Finance Committee report. Harry Betz said that the members are himself, Joe Kircher, Sue LaPlaunt Don Fisher, and Jim Morrison.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- **Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2022**

Harry Betz noted that the 2022 budget includes a \$4,000 raise for the Minister of Music, Michael Brinkworth, this year.

Harry Betz will most likely be Council President this coming year, so his role as the Financial Secretary will not be a paid position this year.

Overall, without the unusual savings, we would be incurring a \$50,000 deficit in the proposed budget. Harry asked all to consider increasing their giving and/or bringing others to worship in an effort to grow the congregation.

Harry Betz explained that the \$33,000 PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan helped us in 2020 and another one for \$37,000 in 2021 will help this year.

A motion was made to accept the 2022 budget as presented.

It was moved and seconded (Finance Committee / Barbara Quinn)

MOTION CARRIED

Nile Linn asked if, regarding income/expenses, we will make sure staff salaries are covered. Harry Betz assured him that yes, staff will be covered.

- **Church Council Elections**

President Denise Betz thanked those leaving council: Allison Hudson

President Denise Betz then announced new council members Ashdon Bobbie, Melanie Boyer, CJ Hamilton, and Maryanne Sweeney

President Denise Betz asked the congregation for other council member nominations. None were submitted.

A motion was made to close nominations from the floor and accept the four new Council members presented by Denise Betz.

It was moved and seconded (Pat Ross / Cathanne Bart) MOTION CARRIED

- Birdie Smith asked if we could get a calendar running again which lists the goings on of the church and the various committees. Bob Muller explained that the calendar is not currently on line but will be online soon and updated with meetings as well. Denise Betz further explained that the calendar will also be part of the weekly bulletin as well as available on line.

- Nile Linn suggested that council members be listed as well as the monthly minutes. Bob Muller said that the minutes are on line, Denise confirmed that they're on the web site. Pastor Bo said that they are not on Facebook and that they should not be on Facebook, only on the website.
- Pat Beadling pointed out that there is a lot of information in the financial report but it is difficult to compare last year vs this year. Harry Betz explained that the Finance committee will be looking at a new financial software package and getting reports timely was difficult this year. There are four different systems being used and they do not talk to each other. They are looking at new system that will be much more robust and efficient. Bob Muller will also be updating a members list and something should be coming out by end of February. Bob also asked those in attendance for updated email information from all.

Closing

- The meeting was closed in prayer
- The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. (Harry Betz/CJ Hamilton) **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Roper
Church Council Secretary