

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church – Waconia, Minnesota**

**Congregational Meeting Minutes – Wednesday January 25, 2017 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**Mission:** To Learn, Serve and Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Vision:** To be a dynamic, energized worshipping community where all are growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.

**Call to Order:** The congregational meeting was called to order by Bill Goergen, Council President at 7:05 p.m. in Steiner Hall.

**Pastor Dale Scripture and Greeting:** Pastor Dale shared with us his Grandma's funeral passage. We need to give God all the honor for our great forward progress over the past years. Pastor Dale went on to talk about using the "Holy Cow" church assessment tool in 2014 and determining our church had High satisfaction and Low energy. Then in 2015 we took this information and created our Long Range Plan. 2016 was the fulfillment of that plan. If we were to go back and take the "Holy Cow" now said Pastor Dale, I am sure it would show High Energy and High Satisfaction. This has to do with many things he said. The hiring of Pastor Christine and a full staff and updating communication our PBF committee and so many opportunities to learn here at Faith are just a sampling. So for 2017 let's just keep going said Pastor Dale. He then led us in prayer.

**Powered By Faith Update – Stan Winnie:** Stan shared that the fall campaign of 2015 the total pledges were 255 and the total pledges for the fall campaign 2016 were 302. Of those 37 pledges were revised from the previous campaign and there were 47 new pledges. The 3 year campaign pledged amount for 2015 was \$2,023,787 and for the 2016 campaign pledged amount was \$2,164,100 which was an increase in pledged amount of \$140,313. The percentage of households pledging in 2015 was 42.4% and in 2016 that amount was 47.9%.

**2016 Financial Review – Craig Sinclair:** Craig showed us a slide of FELC Income vs Expense annual difference starting with year 2007 to 2016. Craig was pleased to show us that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row that Faith has had a general fund surplus. Craig then showed a chart of 2016 income vs expenses and noted that expenses were on budget at \$938,983.87 and income exceeded expectations at \$967,685.23. Leaving a surplus on the revenue side of \$27,893. What do we do with the 2017 general fund surplus? The agreed plan was to make an incremental benevolence payment to the Synod. Our financial situation was not always good so the plan was to wait and see how the budget play out and then pay the Synod as we are then able to. Craig then asked for questions and discussion followed.

**2017 Ministry Budget – Craig Sinclair:** Craig presented a slide of FELC estimated income – 2017. The 2017 proposed budget total income is \$1,006,744.55. Powered by Faith is driving the higher expected income said Craig. The variance from 2016 to 2017 is \$39,059.32 or a 4.0% change. Craig then went on to talk about the 4 main ministry areas being focused on. IT/Communications, Staff Expenses/Salaries, Life Growth & Mission and Property. Craig showed us a ministry budget 2017 slide. The IT/Communications variance is \$2,799 or 20.4% change – improved computer support, internet services and speed etc. The staff expenses/salaries variance is \$37,716 or 6.6% change – with job descriptions updated there is a need for a part time administration position, staff salary increases etc. The LGM

variance is \$5,161 or 130.2% change – this is a broad area including hospitality, new member expenses and small group & retreats. The property variance is \$5,510 or 8.9% change – rent a lift & purchase replacement light bulbs for all and fix sidewalk tripping hazard. Total expenses are up 7.4% said Craig. Craig then showed the 2017 budget summary. The proposed budget income - \$1,006,744, ministry expenses - \$790,644, Mortgage - \$202,740. Total expenses + Mortgage - \$993,384 with a difference of \$13,359. Discussion followed about the ministry budget.

**Ministry Budget Motion:** Genie Dueber made a motion to approve the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church 2017 Ministries Expense Budget in the amount of approximately \$993,385.00. The motion was seconded by Will Swanson. The floor was opened for discussion. All approved. Motion Carries.

**Special Item Approval – Pastor Christine:** Pastor Christine shared with us the vision and need for audio/visual improvements for our congregation. She shared with us the studies on how multimedia education and resources benefit in the worship setting. Studies have shown that 25% of us learn thru our ears and 65% rely on sight and vision said Pastor Christine. Kids need sight to learn along with hearing. We would love to be able to work on the improvement of sound and vision during our services said Pastor Christine. Further discussion and questions followed.

**Cash Balance/Cash Reserves – Bill Goergen:** Bill showed a slide on FELC Total Cash Balance General + Building Fund for the end of years 2014, 2015 and 2016. He then showed the 2016 expenditures from cash reserves. Jan 1, 2016 cash on hand - \$217,176; catch up benevolence to Synod - \$16,800; parking lot maintenance - \$30,000; remaining cash on hand - \$170,376. Bill then presented the 2017 proposed expenditures from cash reserves. Jan 1, 2017 cash on hand - \$200,098; catch up benevolence to Synod - \$17,316; computing & audio visual equipment - \$22,000; remaining cash on hand - \$160,782.

**Benevolence Motion:** Jeanine Kruschke made a motion to approve a benevolence contribution to the Synod of \$17,316 from the general fund in January 2017. The motion was seconded by Deb Ericsson. Further discussion followed. All Approved. Motion carries.

**Audio/Visual Equipment Motion:** Chuck Dueber made a motion to approve spending of up to \$22,000 for personal computers and audio/visual equipment from the general fund in the first quarter of 2017. The motion was seconded by Steve Smith. Pastor Dale talked about some of the equipment that they are looking at purchasing. And he shared that they got 3 different bids. More discussion followed. All Approved. Motion Carries.

**Close of Congregational Meeting and Lord's Prayer – Pastor Christine:** Pastor Christine led us in the Lord's Prayer to close our meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Rachel Hjelsand, Secretary