

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**January 12, 2020**

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**1. Call to Order**

Council President Pat Bolka called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. Opening Liturgy**

Pastor Jeff led the meeting attendees in prayer.

**3. Appointment of Tellers**

President Bolka announced the tellers: John Blanchard, David Gregor, Ken Olson and David Bruce. The President asked the tellers to count the attendees to establish a quorum. Ann Bruce served as the meeting Parliamentarian.

**4. Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

President Bolka discussed several corrections that needed to be made to the draft 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes.

David Gregor moved to approve the amended 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Jan Yost seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**5. Review of Staff and Council Reports**

President Bolka directed attendees to the Council Reports in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she proceeded with the agenda.

**6. Review of the 2019 Mission Spending Plan and Presentation of the 2020 Plan**

John Brown introduced himself and began his presentation by thanking Ann Bruce and Sharoll Blodgett who assisted with the budget during the summer months.

John stated that the good news is we are financially better off this year than last year as reflected on the balance sheet.

Elaine Carlson asked what the fixed asset amount was based on, and when was the last time an evaluation of property and contents was conducted.

John stated we would need to hire an appraiser to complete an up-to-date appraisal. This would be an expense to the church, and he did not personally feel it would be necessary but would arrange for the appraisal if the congregation recommended it.

During the discussion, Gayle Denny contacted the church's insurance agent who stated she would conduct a current valuation of the church's assets.

Elaine also asked about the amount of \$973,338.79 listed under liabilities on the balance sheet. John responded that this amount is the current mortgage loan balance.

David Gregor asked about the vehicle amount listed on the balance sheet. John explained that amount is the current value of the church's van.

John proceeded to explain the cash on hand statement stating we have \$276,447.03, an increase over last year of \$139,000. The increase is due to the endowment from the House family as well as the money in the solar energy fund. John reminded the attendees that the budget is a plan of how we think money will be spent during the year and the church's history is to not spend money we do not have.

John stated the spending plan reflects a 2% increase in rent income. Expenses reflect a 2% increase in salaries, an increase to maintenance of \$5,000, and a \$10,000 amount for the Sabbatical Fund. Pastor Jeff will be taking a sabbatical during August and September 2020 and prior to doing so, will provide the Council a summary for the use of that money.

John explained the amount of the cash on hand listed for the Outreach Fund at a request from Ardyce DuRand. Pastor explained that if money is not available, it is not spent and he also encouraged members to contribute their items to the the church's boutique that Ardyce manages. The proceeds from the boutique fund the Outreach program.

During last year's annual meeting, members asked for an audit. John reported that a team consisting of Elaine Carlson, Mike Coyle and Ann Bruce completed that audit. Three recommendations were made by the audit team and all have been completed. Another audit will be taking place shortly, with Elaine Carlson leading the team consisting of Mike Coyle and Jim Erickson.

## **7. Discussion of Four Major Projects**

John Brown introduced Ken Olson who discussed four major projects at CELC.

Ken began by stating that maintenance is ongoing and he gave credit to all the volunteers who assist in the upkeep of the two buildings.

Project 1: A new roof is needed on Building A. Work will begin on January 14 or 15 and the cost is \$8,900. The roof will have a 15-year guarantee.

Project 2: Stucco will be repaired on Building B. The work will begin next week prior to painting.

Project 3: Building B will be painted. Power washing will begin on Monday, January 13. The cost of the painting and stucco repair will be \$15,000.

Project 4: Bob Just spent many hours reviewing solar, however, it was not practical to put solar panels on top of the bad roof on Building B, so the project did not proceed at that time. Other options of placement for the solar panels will be researched prior to moving forward with the project.

Ken stated that Building B may need a new roof in the future and the cost of that roof could be approximately \$40,000. Funding options will be addressed at that time.

Jennifer Cole commented that solar panels on the ground would welcome vandals and recommended against it.

Ken responded that they are looking into a parking lot cover concept rather than placing on the ground.

## **8. Declaration of Quorum**

President Bolka confirmed that a quorum was present with 75 members. Fifty-four members are needed for a quorum.

## **9. Council Candidate Nominations**

President Bolka introduced Connie Sornsin, who worked with a committee consisting of MaryEllen Crane, Tony Crane and Carol Sears.

Connie presented the following team lead candidates for nomination:

- 1) Building and Maintenance (one-year term) – Ken Olson. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.
- 2) Education Ministry (two-year term) – Mike Berg. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.
- 3) Youth Ministry (one-year term) – Jennifer Cole. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.
- 4) Outreach Ministry (two-year term) – Kay Myers. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.
- 5) Fellowship Ministry (two-year term) – Connie Sornsin, Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.
- 6) Worship and Music Ministry (two-year term) – Kathy Coyle. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.
- 7) CELC President (one-year term) – Pat Bolka. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, nominations closed.

## **10. Casting of Written Congregational Ballot**

The written ballots were distributed to the members of the congregation. The ballots contained a vote on team leaders as well as a vote on the 2020 Mission Spending Plan.

As ballots were being distributed, President Bolka announced that the 2021 Nominating Committee representatives are Cher Johnson and Wendy Gabler. Lulu Rood from the congregation volunteered to be a part of the committee as well. There were no other volunteers from the congregation so Pat Bolka volunteered for the committee as well.

Seventy-two completed ballots were collected and counted by John Blanchard, David Gregor, Ken Olson and David Bruce.

There were 72 yes votes with the following results:

- 1) Ken Olson was voted into the Building and Maintenance Team Lead position.
- 2) Mike Berg was voted into the Education Ministry Team Lead position.
- 3) Jennifer Cole was voted into the Youth Ministry Team Lead position.
- 4) Kay Myers was voted into the Outreach Ministry Team Lead position.
- 5) Connie Sornsin was voted into the Fellowship Ministry Team Lead position.
- 6) Kathy Coyle was voted into the Worship and Music Ministry Team Lead position.
- 7) Pat Bolka was voted into the CELC President position.
- 8) The 2020 Mission Spending Plan was approved.

## **11. CELC Legacy Circle**

Elizabeth Banta discussed the CELC Legacy Circle, describing different options of participating in the program and stated that 14 people have joined the Circle to date. Elizabeth reminded people that when they make a gift, unless they request otherwise, 50% will be deposited to a CELC Endowment Fund, which will yield a perpetual stream of support. An additional 25% will be used to help retire CELC's mortgage and 25% will be used to bring current mission initiatives and projects to life.

## **12. Gifts to Outgoing Council Members**

Bob Just, Cher Johnson, and Wendy Gable were recognized as outgoing council members. They were not present, therefore, Pastor will recognize them at an upcoming worship.

## **13. Breakout Session**

President Bolka thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and expressed her appreciation that they stayed after services. She then announced there would be a breakout session to have the attendees respond to three questions.

As the congregation separated into small groups, the tellers handed out the following questions:

1. What do you like about what's going on at CELC?
2. What do you think we could improve on here at CELC?
3. Looking forward 3-5 years, what would you like to see that would go along with our mission? "We are a Christian Fellowship reaching out to all people so that they might experience God's love for them."

Upon completion, the input was collected and President Bolka read a few responses to the attendees. She then stated the Council would review the comments for follow up.

Bruce Haroldson asked that a handout of the breakout question responses be provided to the congregation to allow the entire congregation to have input on what items are important to them.

Elaine Carlson commented she would like to see a monthly accounting of how much income the church is taking in.

## **14. Closing Comments and Prayer**

Pastor commented on the age demographics of the congregation, stating that we have a very dynamic church despite the elderly population and the church needs to be vital in the community where it is. Pastor also discussed communication in the church and commented on the communication practices already taking place. Pastor also discussed a future interim ministry to handle his future retirement, suggesting that it start early enough to ensure a smooth transition. Pastor also commented on the church's Outreach program, stressing how important it is and the need to continue it.

Pastor then led the congregation in prayer.

President Bolka again thanked the congregation for staying for the meeting and for their involvement.

### **15. Adjournment**

Ann Bruce moved to adjourn the 2020 Annual Meeting. David Bruce seconded. Motion carried.

The 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by Gayle Williams, Recording Secretary.*