

Zion Lutheran Church

Special Congregational Meeting, March 20, 2022

President Edward Juhl called the meeting to order following Sunday service.

Pastor Mark Decker opened with prayer.

Announcements

- 1) Pastor Mark will retire June 30th, 2022, after 10 ½ years of service. Ed expressed our thanks.
- 2) Ed gave a 'pep talk' regarding the future of Zion church. Our church has been in existence for 144 years. The next 3-6 months will help to determine our direction. Ed made 4 points for a bright future:
We need to evaluate our culture and attitudes. Steady as you go. Members need to be active and engaged to grow. Leadership must be willing to change.

Add to or approval of the agenda

Gary Dufel made motion to approve the agenda. Bill Gutknecht 2nd. Passed

Old Business

Ed presented several pages of financial documents prepared by the finance committee. First, a look at past financial performance of our investments. 2nd, a look at past projects of 2001 thru 2015, to show that leadership and can-do attitude will get things done. 3rd, a more detailed look at the parking lot project, shows positive ability to get good stuff done. 4th, a report from financial secretary for the first 10 weeks of giving, a statistical snapshot.

Edward Juhl then announced that per his personal philosophy of 'talk the talk, walk the walk', he is forgiving the Zion Lutheran Church loan. Congregation applauded. Many THANKS!

The 5th item shows the actuals and budgets for 3 years. Comments from Ed: It's going to 'cost' to hire a new pastor. Plus, congregation might consider increasing mission giving to continue a 10% plan. Today we have a \$36,000 cushion to help us get through the months ahead.

Gary Dufel inquired about improvements and/or maintenance. No major projects are noted today. Any that come up can hopefully be accomplished with volunteer labor creating a fellowship event, as many of our past projects. We should prepare of the opportunities that may present themselves with the paving of Grundy Road.

Cindy Appleton inquired about pastoral coverage during the hiring process after Mark leaves. We have 2-3 names willing to fill-in for weddings, funerals, and the like to get us thru.

Lyle Wulf made motion to approve the budget as presented. Gary Dufel, and Marion Grover 2nd. Passed.

New Business

Bill Gutknecht presented information about the Call Committee. The process through LCMC is quite different from how it is done in ELCA. There is evaluation of the church, followed by creating a resume and job description, then to be put forward for ministers to come to us. The Call Committee is comprised of younger members representing current families and future members, plus several perspective members. The goal is to keep life in the church, to help every member have a stake in our congregation; to attract a minister that will be able to engage involvement. The committee is made up of 12 members vs. 7 as in past years. The Committee has met 2 times already to observe their commitment. They are meeting regularly for education of this new call process.

During discussion of approval for the committee, Cindy Appleton noted our by-laws assigning the number of 7 for the call committee. Members discussed the idea of a waiver. Edward Juhl made motion 'pursuant to the council passing a waiver to the by-laws to allow more than 7 and to include non-members' the current slate of Call Committee members be approved. Bill Gutknecht 2nd. Motion Passed.

Marion Grover thanked Bill for his leadership and presentation. She also stated that the congregation would receive progress reports from the committee.

Adjournment

Cindy Appleton moved to adjourn the special meeting. Marion Grover 2nd. Passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Lee, temporary Recording Secretary

