

St. John Lutheran Church Voting Assembly, August 23, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

Abridged minutes

The meeting was held virtually using the Blackboard Collaborate meeting tool. There were 81 log-ins. Pastor Andy opened the meeting with prayer.

Ministry Staff Reports

Written reports from the staff were included in the agenda that was emailed to voters prior to the meeting.

Financial Report

Cathy Brase reviewed highlights of the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

- General fund giving was up by \$110,000 over last year.
- CDC revenue was down roughly \$150,000 because the facility was closed for several months due to COVID-19. This was partially covered by donations from parents in response to a letter from the Education Board.
- Personnel expenses were down because we didn't have a deaconess for part of the year.
- We would have ended the year with a deficit of \$162,976, but because of loan proceeds received through the Family First act, we ended the year with a surplus of \$316,152.

Ministry Funding Plan (MFP)

Joel Endorf, chair of the Finance Board, walked through the MFP sheet that was emailed prior to the meeting, highlighting:

- At the beginning of 2019-2020 the projected deficit to be covered by faith was \$231,041.
- By God's grace the PPP program more than covered this projected deficit and we ended with a surplus of \$316,152.
- The Finance Board outlined two MFP options:
 - Option #1 with a deaconess (projected deficit of \$143,479 to be covered by faith)
 - Option #2 without a deaconess (projected deficit of \$58,120 to be covered by faith)
- The Board is projecting a 4.5 percent increase in giving this coming year.

The Coordinating Council recommendation brought to the voters is for Option #1, with a deaconess.

A rich, thoughtful, and lengthy discussion, with opinions both pro and con, followed. The question was called. The motion was passed, approving Option #1, with a deaconess.

Ministry Board Membership

Normal elections were not held this year because of COVID-19. The following motion was brought by the Coordinating Council:

"Given disruptions to our normal congregational election process because of the coronavirus pandemic, the council moves that we a) manage ministry board memberships via the vacancy appointment mechanism in the bylaws, and b) hold elections for Congregational Chair and Congregational Secretary during today's meeting of the Voting Assembly, and to resume our normal election process in 2021."

An amendment was offered to exclude the Education Board from this motion, i.e. Education Board members could be approved only through an election process. This amendment was defeated. The original motion was approved.

Elections

Congregational Chair: Jeremy Geidel was nominated to be Congregational Chair. There were no other nominations. He was approved.

Congregational Secretary: Shirley Liesener was nominated to be Congregational Secretary. There were no other nominations. She was approved.

Closing

Pastor Andy closed the meeting with prayer. A motion to adjourn carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Liesener, congregational secretary