



## Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **ATTENDANCE:**

2023 Council Members	*Rebekah Bryan (Secretary)	Brittany Lobner (Fellowship)
Kirstin Albiero (Past President)	*Scott Nielsen (Treasurer)	Avery Newell
*Scott Donovan (President)	*Sarah Dahl	*Pat Murack
*Chris Eippert (President-Elect)	Lori Mathias (Worship)	Kelly Arndt
*Pastor Chris Thomas		

Total Congregation Attendance: 54 in person and 5 virtually

### **Call to Order**

Church Council President Scott Donovan called the meeting to order at 12:07 P.M.  
A quorum was met.  
Pastor Chris began the meeting with a devotion/prayer.

### **Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2023 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded & approved.

### **Audit Committee**

#### **Report – Linda Lalley**

Response from Linda Lalley: On February 11, 2024, Bob Dries, Linda Lalley, and Bob Crevensten met with Arcelia Schweisthal and Scott Nielsen to conduct an audit of the Church's financial records for 2023.

We reviewed the 2024 Financial Statements in the Annual Report and traced amounts reported to the financial system. Receipts and Disbursements were tested by tracing amounts to bank statements and to supporting documents. The bank reconciliations were reviewed and the cash amount agreed with what is shown in the annual report.

We found the Church's financial records were well organized, properly documented and in good order.

### **Endowment Fund**

See the 2023 annual report.

### **New Business**

#### **Identification of Nominating Committee Members**

- Chris Beloin
- James Newell
- Third candidate needed.

Motion was made and seconded – approved.

#### **Identification of Nominating Committee for 2024 Council Members**

- President Elect – Stephen Buchman
- Secretary – Rebekah Bryan
- Treasurer – Brad Doro
- Additional Members at large: (2-year terms) – Dustin Lobner, Kate Peterman, Sarah Brogni, Paula Race-Mantel

Motion was made and seconded – approved.



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Question raised about the “at-large” terminology. The at-large members will act as liaisons to committee heads as opposed to having a dedicated committee head on council. Council will communicate with congregation as to who the committee chairs and liaisons will be. Council retreat/reorganization meeting will be held to determine who will be responsible for working with which teams. Then, bulletin board will be updated. The four at-large names on the ballot are filling in the remaining spots to make a council of 12.

Should one of the at-large council members have a one-year term since there was a resignation? Newly elected will have two-year terms.

### **Endowment Fund committee**

- Tindaro Caputo
- Dan Mathias
- Brook Napiwocki

Question: Are we completely replacing nominating and endowment fund members every three years?

Answer: The idea is to have one stay on and one come off each year. The first people elected to endowment fund will arrange for one to have a 1-year term, one 2-year, and one 3-year term.

Question: Are the people appointed to be the at-large liaison, are they encouraged to go to the monthly meetings?

Answer: If you can go, go. If you can't, have someone report back to you. Committee member should communicate with council member. One of the goals is to make a lighter load for both council member and committee member. There are people who are interested in being council but not committee members, or vice versa. At-large council members are voting members.

Motion was made and seconded – approved.

### **Identification of Synod Assembly Voting Members**

- Avery Newell
- James Newell
- Stephen Buchman

Motion was made and seconded – approved.

### **Old Business**

#### **Roof update**

After the initial issues were addressed, new issues were found. Ceiling drains causing leaks into Luther and the nursery. Contacting the people who did the installation about warranty. Major leak above sound board has been resolved.

#### **Thrivent Grants – Chris Beloin**

Action team card - \$250 grants on a Visa card. Sign up on Thrivent for \$19.99 to be an associate member – can apply for two grants each year for a total of \$500. Around 150 members currently at Grace. Jean Fugate seeking an updated list of members. Thrivent members should contact her.

#### **Financial Report and Presentation of the 2024 Budget – Scott Nielsen**

A discussion was held about the proposed budget, including update to benevolence. Members asked several questions.



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Surplus \$15,000 at the end of 2023. Larger contingency fund than when we started. Projected a \$12,000 deficit going into this year. Reset benevolence to get to that projected deficit. In January 2024, provided an additional \$4k to synod. Back to increasing our benevolence for 2024. Went up \$11,000 in benevolence. Our goal is 10% - currently we're budgeting for 7% cash giving with additional in-kind giving. Also continuing to build contingency fund. Offerings up 9% this year.

A motion was made to approve the 2024 Grace Lutheran budget, second and verbal approval motion carried.

Closing words from Church Council Scott Donovan.

Closing words and prayer from Pastor Chris.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM