



Resurrection Lutheran Church 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes - Draft

Call to order – The 2015 Annual Meeting of Resurrection Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, January 25, 2015. President Sheila Allen called the meeting to order at 12:33.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Pastor Jedidiah Scharmer began the meeting by reading Ephesians 4:9-13. He shared that Jesus has given spiritual gifts to the whole body and how he's watched God use those gifts within our community; moving in individual giftings to build up the body. Members with gifts of apostles building unity by bringing the message of Christ into the community, prophets pointing our eyes to Christ in weekly music worship time, evangelists throughout our congregation sharing the message of Christ and reaching out inviting people to meet Jesus. He sees our spiritual gifts as a body continuing to grow and counts it a blessing to walk through the pages of scripture together.

Presentation and Adoption of Agenda – Sheila called for a certification of quorum which was achieved with 83 voting members present. Jim Johnson served as Parliamentarian and Cheri Affeldt, Rick Wagner, and Rick Adamski served as tellers. Jim Swartwood, Terri Erickson, and Nicole Hedlund served as checkers.

Resurrection staff, council members, and ministry directors stood to be recognized.

Sheila reported the agenda had been distributed in the 2014 Annual Report prior to the meeting and asked for any changes. Hearing none, the 2015 Annual Meeting agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes – Sheila reported that the 2014 annual meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting as well as posted on the Resurrection website as of February of last year and asked for any changes. Hearing none, the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as distributed.

Congregational Relationship Exploratory Team (CRET) Update - Mike Schmidt provided an updated on the status of the CRET's research. He reported that at the last annual meeting, the congregation voted to have the CRET research our affiliation/partnership with the ELCA and other potential affiliations to help our congregation understand the options and consequences of staying with or leaving the ELCA and to analyze the data and make an objective recommendation to the congregation about Resurrection's affiliation/partnership with the ELCA.

He reported over the past year the CRET has been meeting twice per month, has held open forums for the congregation to share thoughts and concerns, held one-on-one meetings with members, and connected with lead pastors of several congregations with a variety of Lutheran affiliations. They have met with the Minneapolis Synod Bishop for the ELCA and attended the Synod Assembly and also met with the Service Coordinator for the Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ (LCMC) and attended their Annual Gathering. They also developed our Faith Statement, participated in Resurrection's task group analyzing the results of the REVEAL

survey to identify Resurrection's core values, and studied research on mainline denominations faith growth strategies and attributes of growing churches.

At this time they are compiling what has been learned and prayerfully weighting options. They have narrowed their focus to the following options: 1. Stay with the ELCA, 2. Join LCMC which would require a 2/3 majority vote, 3. Become an Independent Lutheran Church (this option has been ruled out for various reasons to be outlined in their final presentation).

They are not committing to a specific date for a final recommendation but they hope to be ready by March or April. They are asking for everyone's prayers for the Holy Spirit to lead this process and provide unity. They also ask for the congregation to continue to share questions and keep updated with the CRET link on Resurrection's website. The CRET will only provide a recommendation, the ultimate decision will be made by the congregation. Mike concluded by stating this is God's church and we all desire God's will; prayer will lead us.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report 2014 – Sheila Allen presented the 2014 Treasurers Report as we don't currently have an active treasurer. She thanked Laura Fleisher, outgoing treasurer and our financial administrators Gail Alex and Julie Dunn for their work keeping our finances in good order. The highs for 2014 include receiving 195 pledges this year versus 180 last year; no programs needed to be cut; General Fund giving received was within \$2,000 of what was pledged, Thank you!; staff did an excellent job controlling expenses; generous donations were received for the water drainage issue; 4% was allocated to the Contingency Fund and 1/2 % to the Asset Replacement Fund; assisted youth mission trips through Summer Ministries Gala funds; staff wage increases to bring us closer to market wage levels; restructured Children and Family and Youth and Family and added additional staffing hours with no net salary impact; Financial Administrator position increased to full time; no staff hours were cut; a post-secondary scholarship was awarded; Live it Out generosity campaign distributed \$8,000 of compassion funds through our members; Servant Keeper and other technology updates completed; new speakers installed in the back worship area; sold the John Deere tractor and bought a new mower and created a maintenance fund with the proceeds from the sale.

Lows include increasing fees for adult and children/youth programs; unable to afford new pew chairs for the worship center; continue short on funds for the projected drainage issue; Summer Ministries Gala donations down; lagging contributions to the Mortgage Fund by \$13,000.

Sheila read Psalms 116:17 and thanked God for what he's provided.

Report of the Audit Committee – Michelle Lavrenz, Audit Committee Chair, shared the 2014 audit committee report on behalf of the committee. Members include Michelle, Amy Rowan and Sarah Scribner. The audit committee report was distributed prior to the meeting. The committee met with Laura Fleisher, outgoing Council Treasurer and Julie Dunn, Financial Administrator and felt confident in Julie's skills in managing our finances. They pulled random invoices and confirmed check amounts matched the invoices. Bank statements were in good order, authorization cards were on file and stored in secure locations, and outside payroll services are accurate. They report all is in good order and see good foresight in the management of our financial obligations. Thanks given to our staff.

Report of Nominating Committee – Brian Holte, Chair of the Nominating Committee shared the roster of candidates for the following positions that require a written ballot.

Vice President/President: Mark Parnell – 3 year term
Secretary: Chris VanHofwegen – 3 year term

Member at Large: Jim Swartwood – 2 years (completing Rick Wagner’s 3 year term)

Nominating Committee: Karen Chatterton – 2 year term

Nominating Committee: Jeff Davis – 2 year term

Candidates came forward to introduce themselves to the congregation.

Brian called for nominations from the floor for the above positions. Hearing none the nominations were closed.

Brian then reported that we have been unable to fill the treasurer position. He stated that the nominating committee asks for the Lord’s guidance to lead them to a potential candidate. Eight people were asked and no one accepted the position. Brian encouraged congregation members to step forward if they feel the Holy Spirit’s tug.

Sheila called for nominations from the floor for the treasurer position, hearing none the nominations were closed. The tellers distributed, collected, and counted the ballots. Sheila reported we have a majority vote for all candidates. There was one write in candidate for Treasurer but that person was not present. The treasurer position was declared vacant and that name will be passed on to the nominating committee for follow up.

Brian reported there are no ministry director or board appointments at this time; however, the nominating committee has been searching to fill the Community Outreach Ministry Director position. Brian listed the activities organized by this position and encouraged members to consider co-chairing. Any further questions or possible nominations for this position were directed to talk with Ron Dessellier, the new nominating committee chair or Pastor Jedidiah.

Report of the Property Audit Committee - Sheila reported that the council approved the formation of the Property Audit Committee in 2012 to assist in assessing property needs, prioritizing of those needs, and working with vendors in obtaining bids if necessary and reporting back to the council for final decisions/approvals. As a member of the Property Audit Committee, the council vice-president will provide the report.

Frank Theros, Vice President reported the genesis garden has been maintained with newly planted shrubs and pavers; a Resurrection family cleaned up the crosses including landscaping and lighting, Thank you!; trees are blooming in the field to the crosses and the trails/benches are in good shape; worship center - new speakers installed, digital lighting of the cross, stage, sound board and equipment are all in good order; various painting projects completed throughout the Spiritual Growth Hall including windows replaced; minor repairs completed to HVAC roof top units; office space updated to create new workstations; John Deere tractor sold and new mower purchased, maintenance fund established; cleared frozen water pipe to Timber Bay building, building painted. A plat drawing has been received and reviewed for repairs to front drainage problem. An engineer estimate is pending based on available funding for the project. The property was successfully protected from water damage last spring/summer by sand bagging.

Proposed projects for 2015 include repairing the front drainage which will need to include a funding campaign and continue to monitor HVAC system as it is 15 yrs old. Long range planning projects include replacing the 3 crosses retaining wall and parking lot restoration. Frank alerted the congregation that in spring of this year the city has plans to erect a 3 story apartment complex across the street which may cause traffic delays during construction.

Myron Yatekoske and Juile Johnson were introduced as our new Building and Grounds Coordinators. Special thanks given to June and Pat Lafond and all members for their committed dedication to our property.

Passing of the Gavel - Outgoing President Sheila Allen handed the remainder of the meeting over to incoming President Frank Theros.

Action Item A - Presentation and Adoption of the 2015 Budget - Frank presented the 2015 proposed budget as we do not have an active treasurer. Frank explained that the budget and frequently asked questions were published for public viewing two weeks prior to the annual meeting. Budget forums were also held the two Sundays prior to the meeting. Our expenses were budgeted on what we received in 2014.

Frank reported items that have impacted the 2015 budget include Summer Ministries Gala will help fund youth programs, expecting a decrease in expenses to our operations budget due to new yard equipment, slight decrease in city/county taxes, and budgeted increased expenses in building and grounds maintenance.

Lows include being short on funds for drainage repair; inability to budget for an Executive Director Position (this is a crucial financial goal for 2015); inability to allocate dollars to the Contingency Fund; adding only 1% to the Asset Replacement Fund instead of the 3%; 2015 pledges for the Mortgage Fund are down.

Highs include not needing to cut or increase fees for programs; funding for building asset maintenance; continuing benevolence support to our dedicated social services; able to budget staff wage increases to bring us closer to market wage levels; able to add hours to the Building and Grounds position; average pledge dollars per family increased; General Fund Pledges are up over last year. Frank reported no major challenges expected this year and honored Pastor Jedidiah for all his work on the budget.

Sheila Allen made a motion to approve the 2015 budget as presented; Rick Adamaski seconded the motion. Frank called for discussion. JaniRae Wern offered a correction that the second mortgage does not have 15.2 years left on the loan but 12-13 years. Frank called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members, Community Board Members, and Ministry Directors - Pastor Jedidiah recognized the following outgoing positions: Council President Sheila Allen; Treasurer Laura Fleisher; Secretary Debbie Odell; Community Outreach Ministry Director Traci Woytcke.

2015 Strategic Ministry Plan Presentation – Frank reported that one of the goals for the Congregational Council is to review and revise Resurrection's Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) every three years. The last time it was revised was in 2012, a copy has been posted on the Resurrection website. The SMP states Resurrection's vision/mission and core values and is the driver for the direction of our ministries. With the assistance of staff, ministry directors and congregation members council was able to complete the 2015 SMP. This document will be available on the Resurrection website.

Pastor Jedidiah presented the 2015 Strategic Ministry Plan. He explained that the SMP drives where we're going over the next several years. The REVEAL survey completed by the congregation in 2012 identified that our mission and vision is solid and there is no need for changes so it has been solidified in

the 2015 SMP. The 2014 REVEAL survey reaffirmed we are going in the right direction but we needed to nail down our core values; what guides the decisions we make. Council, ministry directors, staff, and the congregations were invited to use the results of the survey to identify our core values as a church. He reviewed and explained each of the core values identified. These core values give us the edges of the river to carry out our mission and vision. He reviewed the ministry focus: themes and goals/objectives, key catalysts in advancing spiritual growth, and strategies. We will continue to craft our ministries around these goals/objectives and use these strategies to meet our goals. He went on to outline our church leadership and refer to our Statement of Faith which is included in the SMP. Pastor Jedidiah concluded by stating “By God’s grace this is where we’re headed”.

Adjournment – Mike Jenkins motioned to adjourn; JaniRae Wern seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer and Benediction – Pastor Jedidiah closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Odell
Council Secretary