

## Minutes for Peace Annual Meeting, Jan. 28, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting was called to order by President Melanie Nyquist at 10:33 am with over 100 voting members in attendance virtually and in person. Melanie explained the meeting format.

Pastor Stuart shared a devotion.

Melanie thanked our Council members and Peace Staff with a slide show presentation. She noted that we did not add any new people to Council this year. Also, noted was that Council will be meeting every other month (6 times per year) in 2024. Pastor Stuart mentioned that the goal of the Council in 2024 will be to learn how to function clearly and well as a team.

Melanie noted that by “Sharing God’s Love” in-person and on-line, we have shifted our momentum in a positive direction. “Our congregation continues to be concerned, kind and generous” and she sincerely thanked everyone for that.

The State of the Church is financially strong (we’ve maintained financial stability for a fourth year.) In 2023, the following upgrades were made to our aging facility; A new roof was put on the old Church, new water fountains installed, office computers and phones were upgraded and new water heaters installed in bathrooms.

The facility is showing signs of aging and ongoing upgrades and repairs will be needed in 2024 which include; A/C, furnace unit, light project, new windows and scissor lift.

A motion was made by Erin DeGroot and seconded by Ed Nordman to accept the Annual Church Minutes from 2023. Motion carried.

Pastor Stuart talked about our mission (short and simple)... “We are Here to Share God’s Love”. We are back to pre-covid numbers. We’ve learned and grown from our past and our future is looking positive.

Deb Bohm shared highlights of the Treasurer’s Report including specifics from page 4 of the Annual Report ... there is a typo in the “Income Breakdown - General Fund” - The amount for Good Friday & Holy Thursday should be “1,780.00”. She also noted that our mortgage balance started at \$2.1M and we are now down to \$489,916.

The church Audit Committee (Greg Cieslewicz, Kevin Johnson and Elizabeth Lawler) has met over the past year and all checks and balances are in place as required by the ELCA.

A question was asked by Harvey Jaeger - “Does the seminary student fund accumulate?” Deb answered “as of now it does not accumulate and we spend what we have budgeted for the year. Part of this fund for 2023 was sent to Luther Seminary and the other part was given to the Peace Scholarship fund and three students were awarded.”

A motion was made by Clyde Schuette and seconded by Rosie Wyand to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried.

Ministry Team Development's focus for 2024 is; Worship experience, enhancements and opportunities for connection and involvement.

Committee reports were shared in the written report.

For Building and Grounds, Dennis Schwenke shared that the church was given a discount for the new roof that was installed; a tankless water heater was installed and new electrical system was put in nursery. He noted that Lincoln does a phenomenal job and saves the church lots of money. Tom Binish helped in getting Peace a new phone system and \$4,000 was given by a church member for this. Interior lighting will be replaced with LED lighting (Dave Nyquist and Lincoln working on this project.)

Dick Lindstrom of Staffing said we are blessed to have a full staff.

Aaron Wallender said everything is going in the right direction and had nothing else to add to Ministry Support.

Sandy Nordman of Life and Growth had nothing to add to what was reported.

Lynn Aprill is thankful for Rhonda Winter (librarian); and mentioned we could use new front facing book shelves for the younger kids in the library. She also thanked Laura Ruotsala and said we are fortunate to have her.

Worship Committee Chair Kiley Mroczynski complimented Mary Smith and Brittney Genal and said we are blessed to have them. Also, we need people to sign up ahead for volunteering for ushering.

Renee Every (Church Admin.) noted she made changes to the website and Council and Committee pages will be set up (with meeting minutes, etc.) Watch for more to come.

Mike Hallada (Endowment Fund) noted that the fund is doing very well and 2023 was a good year. Over \$10M was received from church members. Approximately \$7M in grants were given out to 14 places this past year. He thanked Arden Christensen for his term on the Endowment Committee and welcomed new members for 2024; Sue Hancock, Dennis Hoppe and Robert Schultz.

Kiley Mroczynski gave an update on the Call Committee; The MSP team is a well-rounded group of members who started their work in early November. She noted there is a good representation of our membership on the committee. They have established group norms for conversations and a unified front. Kiley noted that it is a lengthy process - the team is following the process but not a timeline. The MSP team's goal is to come together with a shared vision and Kiley will report their progress to the Council each time they meet.

Pastor Stuart noted that the committee cannot give out any specific information (names/genders/places) because of confidentiality to the candidates. Pastor said we should pray for this process and he noted we should "let it take as long as needed for a good fit."

Kelly Hohman made a progression chart of the MSP/Call Committee in the "Gathering Area".

A question was asked by Gloria Jaeger: "Are the same people on the Call Committee as last time?" Pastor Stuart said some of the people are the same and some are different than Pastor Jim's call. Pastor Stuart and Pastor Asher (ELCA) are also on the team.

Melanie gave a daycare update; Renee meets weekly with staff from Peaceful Beginnings and we are grateful for their partnership and are blessed to have them.

A motion was made to accept all committee reports by Dan Rogers and seconded by Kurt Wallinger. Motion carried.

Proposed Financial Ministry Report:

Harvey Jaeger asked a question (Pg. 6 bottom - planning for 2024 improvements) ... What is a lift? Dennis Schwenke noted that the item is a "Scissor Lift" that Lincoln can use for replacing lights, etc. It is a good investment as it will pay for itself in a year and a half. Peace Church will now own instead of renting.

Erin DeGroot made a motion to accept the proposed Financial Ministry Report and Mary Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Stuart gave some closing thoughts:

"There were lots of numbers thrown at us. It is important to be pro-active and to stay healthy. The last three years have been a little messy but we've grown and learned from it. God is walking with us and leading us."

Dan Kane thanked Pastor Stuart for being a rock in our transition and for all he's done. Congregation applauded and Pastor responded with "I feel blessed to be here."

Pastor Stuart led us in The Lord's Prayer.

Motion was Made by Deb Fuglestad and seconded by Ed Nordman to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am.