

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Peace Lutheran Church

January 26, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting was called to order by President Melanie Nyquist at 10:35 am with over 100 voting members in attendance virtually and in person. Melanie explained the meeting format.

Pastor Stuart shared a devotion.

Melanie noted that Council terms for Deb Bohm, Aaron Wallender and herself will be ending and thanked everyone for their service.

Pastor Stuart introduced current Council members (Lynn Aprill, Deb Bohm, Erin DeGroot, Dick Lindstrom, Kiley Mroczynski, Melanie Nyquist, Dennis Schwenke, Aaron Wallender and Sandy Nordman) and thanked them for their service.

Melanie Nyquist introduced the Peace Staff (Lincoln Andre, Deb Bohm, Renee Every, Lisa Juszczk, Brittney Genal and Mary Smith) and thanked them for their service.

Melanie also noted that the "state of the church" was financially strong in 2024. She sincerely thanked Pastor Stuart for being a rock for Peace Church and said how grateful we are to him for everything he does for our congregation. She then thanked the "Call Committee" for all they've done to screen for Associate Pastor candidates to date.

Pastor Stuart noted that our church attendance is back to pre-covid numbers and we are adding new members every three months. Peace Church has maintained financial stability for the past 6 years. Pastor stated that our congregation continues to be concerned, kind and generous and he sincerely thanked everyone for that. Pastor also mentioned that the annual audit has been completed. In 2024 we've gotten new heating and AC in classrooms/Lincoln's office, and a new range and stainless steel tables in the kitchen. We will be looking into planning the next 5 years for future needs of the church as our mortgage should be paid off in 3 years. Pastor Stuart reinforced our mission ... *"We are here to share God's love."* He also noted that Bishop Anne references our church when talking with other churches -- Peace is a healthy church for it's size, financial stability, etc. Pastor said we are doing a great job and we will continue to do it.

Rusty Bishop noted there was a "typo" in last year's minutes regarding the Endowment Fund. Should have read *"Over \$10,000 was received from church members. Approximately \$7,000 in grants were given out to 14 places this past year."*

A motion was made by Clyde Schuette and seconded by Ed Nordman to accept the Annual Church Minutes from 2024 with the Endowment Fund revision. Motion carried.

Deb Bohm shared highlights of the Treasurer's Report (Tanzania fund, Youth Group fund, Balance on hand, Building fund for next three years)

Clyde Schuette made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Dan Rogers seconded motion. Motion carried.

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

Deb also reviewed the Ministry Financial Plan and what we are proposing for 2025. Improvements to be made in 2025 include a second pastor, church improvements of security cameras and parking lot repairs. She asked if anyone had questions. No questions asked.

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

Pastor Stuart spoke regarding the "Call Committee". He attended a meeting last week on the statistics of the number of pastors available -- there are not many! So in turn, there are very few applicants. Peace Church may need to hire lay people instead of a pastor and there are many ways to go about this. Pastor spoke with Andy Behrendt whose church has been trying to get a new pastor longer than ours and they've not had applicants either.

Melissa Platkowski noted that there is a demographic across the board that higher education jobs are in demand and there are many job openings.

Jeff Rafn asked if we've done a market survey? Are we being competitive? What about pay guidelines? This is our responsibility to ensure the Staff and Pastor Stuart are compensated and taken care of. Pastor Stuart noted that the Synod has a list of guidelines regarding this. The issue is that very few people are coming out of seminary. There are 35 congregations in our synod right now without pastors.

Erin DeGroot spoke on the subject of us taking care of Pastor Stuart. (Doesn't like to take vacation). Council will help with getting a substitute pastor and ways to help if/when Pastor Stuart wants time off. We do have a substitute pastor list we can use.

Alicyn Kamke asked if any of our church committees would be able to help out for a Sunday service. Yes, they can. Pastor noted there are retired pastors who are available to help out also.

Clyde Schuette made a motion to accept the 2024 Committee Reports. Linda Will seconded motion. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee - Church Council nominees starting in 2025 are Mark Wernicke and Dan Kane for 3 year terms. Ed Nordman made a motion to accept the Church Council nominees. Dave Nyquist seconded motion. Motion carried.

Closing thoughts - Pastor Stuart gave thanks to all for what they do. "And a thank you for this place." Pastor noted that "Everyone tries to do their best to share love and kindness." And also "I'm grateful to be your pastor". "Thank you to everyone! We are His people."

Pastor Stuart led us in prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Deb Fuglestad to adjourn the meeting. Clyde Schuette seconded motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am