

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Meeting 06/06/2021
11:30 a.m.

- I. Call to Order** - President Wade Blain called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. and declared a quorum with 57 members in attendance via Zoom or in person. He assigned Jim Mueller to act as Parliamentarian. Robert's Rules of Order will be followed. Procedures for the meeting and parliamentary procedures were reviewed. A motion was made by Dave DeWitt, 2nd by Matt Koechel, to adopt the rules of procedure for this meeting. Motion carried by hand vote.
- II. Mission, Purpose & Vision Statements and Opening Prayer** – The congregation recited the Mission, Purpose, and Vision Statements. Pastor Jeff then led the opening prayer.
- III. Secretary's Report** – Motion was made by Ken Schmitz, seconded by Chuck Jinkins, to approve the Annual Congregational Minutes from June 7, 2020, and the Special Congregational Meeting held May 23, 2021. Motion carried by hand vote.
- IV. Treasurer's Report** - Motion was made by Lori Anderson Lurvey, seconded by Jim Merkel, to accept the 10 month Treasurer's Report (July 1, 2020-April 30, 2021) and to empower the Church Council to review and adopt the complete 2020-2021 Treasurer's Report at their July or August 2021 meeting and then to publish that report as part of the "final" version of the 2020-2021 Annual report. Motion carried by hand vote.
- V. President's Report** - Motion was made by Liz Koechel, seconded by Brian Koepke, to accept the President's Report as written. Motion carried by hand vote.
- VI. Staff Reports** - Motion was made by Brian Koepke, seconded by Lori Anderson Lurvey, to approve all staff reports as written. President Wade Blain thanked the staff for their efforts in keeping the congregation connected and their flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion carried by hand vote. Staff reports included:
 - A. Pastor Jeff's Report
 - B. 2019 Parish Records
 - C. Adult Ministry Report
 - D. Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Report
 - E. Parish Administrator
- VII. Team Reports** - Motion was made by Chuck Jinkins, seconded by Kris Harmsen, to accept the Team Reports. Motion carried by hand vote. Team reports included:
 - A. Joyful Noise
 - B. Prayer Ministry
 - C. Property Committee
 - D. Saturday Women's Bible Study
 - E. Staff and Talent Committee
 - F. Why Not Wednesday Meals
- VIII. Unfinished Business** – No Unfinished Business.

IX. Ministry Celebrations

A. Staffing Update

- Brenda Gorr has accepted the new full-time position of combined Children, Youth and Family Ministries Director. The transition is going smoothly, and volunteers are excited. Please thank Brenda for her dedicated service to Ascension.
- Kristen Quast has accepted the new position of Children, Youth and Families Coordinator. She will be assisting Brenda with Confirmation, KOG, and Youth Group. Please thank Kristen for her dedicated service to Ascension.

B. Words about Reopening (COVID-19 Task Force)

- Sheila Flucke shared parts of the updated policy. If vaccinated, you no longer need to wear a mask at Ascension. Green chairs will be left in the current position for those wishing to practice distancing. Refreshments will resume with servers filling coffee and serving food. Sheila thanked the current and original teams for their hard work and thanked the congregational for their support.

X. New Business

A. Election of 2021-2022 Delegates

Synod/Conference	Crossways Camps	Campus Ministry
Chuck Jinkins	Jason Smith	Polly May
Darlene Jinkins	Nicole Richter Smith	Myrna Ryder

These names were brought forward by the Nominating Committee. President Wade Blain asked for additional nominations from the floor 3 times for each position and none were received. He then declared nominations for these delegates closed. President Wade Blain declared these delegates elected.

B. Election of Church Council Members

- 2nd Vice-President – Mark Kapler
- Secretary – Julie Wagner
- Treasurer – Patti DeWitt
- Additional Council Member (1-year term) – Mary Bell
- Additional Council Member (2-year term) – Jeff Quast
- Additional Council Member (3-year term) – Grace McAuly
- Additional Council Member (3-year term) – Jim Vander Ploeg

These names were brought forward by the Nominating Committee. For each of the positions, President Wade Blain asked for additional nominations from the floor 3 times and none were received. He then declared nominations for Council positions closed. Election of all Council members was confirmed by a hand vote.

C. Election of Nominating Committee

- Six members are elected to serve a term of one year. The following nominations were brought forth: Outgoing President Wade Blain, John Behrendt, Lori Anderson Lurvey, Dave DeWitt, Ken Schmitz, and Brian Koepke. Melody Merkel agreed to serve as the Alternate. No other nominations were received from the floor, and President Wade Blain declared nominations closed. Election

of all nominating committee members was confirmed by a hand vote.

D. Some thoughts from our incoming Council President

- Jim Mueller shared his thoughts which included the following. The congregational finances are strong even with Covid-19 pandemic situation. Spiritual Growth of the congregation should be a focus in the coming year. The new ministries that have been started are exciting. During our discernment time regarding church affiliation we should all work on our individual spiritual growth.

E. Update on 2021-2022 Financial Ministry Plan

- Last year, the Council decided to continue with the current budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An offering appeal does not seem appropriate currently due to denomination affiliation discernment. So we will continue to use the 2019-2020 budget. The church is in a strong financial position to continue our mission. It is expected that we will have an Offering Appeal and new Financial Plan after the final vote on the denomination affiliation this fall.

F. Other New Business - none

- XI. Adjourn & Closing Prayer** - Motion was made by Lori Anderson Lurvey, seconded by Pat Kranig, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by hand vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m. We closed with the St. Francis Prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Patti DeWitt