

Faith Lutheran Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at 9:55am – Jim Sheldon

Opening Prayer – Pastor Derek Harkins

Secretary's Report – Mark Schneider

Call for corrections or additions to the December 12, 2021, Congregational Meeting Minutes was made. None were heard.

Ray Utter made a motion to approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes as distributed.

Motion was seconded by Marlys Kramer. **Motion approved.**

Treasurer's Report – Matthew Nygard

Matthew summarized the January 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022 financials including an \$172,011 Offering and \$196,097 Expenses. The Stewardship Committee's narrative budget was discussed by Chair Aaron Isaak.

Ray Utter made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by Steve Sundvor. **Motion approved.**

Pastor's Report – Pastor Derek Harkins

It's hard to believe that I have been with you all for almost two years now. What a wild two years it has been! And I believe more firmly than ever that God is still calling us to this mission that we share together, "To build a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel!"

At times, this last year has felt much like the first, just trying to keep our heads above water and keep the ship afloat during unprecedented times and challenges. We have tried this past year to find some sense of normalcy and I believe that we have succeeded in doing so - trying to find a new normal anyways.

As we find ourselves coming out on the other side of a world-wide pandemic, we are faced with new challenges. How do we try to not just get back to normal, but how do we look ahead to where God is calling us in the future? What new thing is God calling us to as a community? How are we living out of Christ's love among one another and in our community? We have gotten back into the schedule of our regular ministries at Faith Lutheran, with regular worship, church school, confirmation, and bible study. Baptisms, funerals, and weddings all continue to make up our life together as we live out of our identity together as baptized children of God.

The effects of the pandemic are being felt in our families, in our community, and yes, here at Faith Lutheran. The effects were already happening across the church as a whole, but the

pandemic has sped up that impact. Lower church attendance and less connection all has snow balled into less giving and offering. Coupled with many deaths of faithful members, along with the literal feet of snow we received during Holy Week has put us behind where we would like to be budget wise. While it raises some concern I am also encouraged by the life and energy that I have felt in recent months as we reinvigorate our leadership, revitalize our task groups and compass group, and revision together what it means to be the church together in this time and place.

We will be having some staffing changes this year as Randy our Building Supervisor, Lisa our Accountant, and Donna our Communications Assistant are all retiring in the next 12 months. It has been an honor to work alongside each of these individuals. A staff evolution committee will be assembled to discern the staffing needs at Faith Lutheran.

In the coming year we will be looking at all of our task groups and discerning if they are structured appropriately for what God is calling us too. We will be focusing on living out our mission of becoming a welcoming nurturing faith community. We will be encouraging one another in generosity - sharing the gifts that God has given us.

I look forward to this next year and believe that there are exciting times ahead for us at Faith Lutheran. The future is unknown, and that can be scary, but it can also be exciting and full of possibilities. Most importantly we know that no matter what God journeys with us.

A big thank you to our amazing staff, our executive committee, our compass leaders, and every single one of you that make up the Body of Christ here at Faith Lutheran. I am continually amazed at what God is up to and it is my great honor and privilege to see the love of God reflected in you.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Sylvia

During her trip to Israel and Palestine Pastor Sylvia began her report with a prayer and message of hope from the Sea of Galilee. An analogy to a boat was made and that Jesus walks out to meet us if we invite him into our boat or step out onto the waves with him. Later, while in Nazareth, Pastor Sylvia reminded the Faith Lutheran Congregation to live out *Isaiah 61* – a Renewal of Faith.

Mission Statement Review – Lyla Timm

Lyla led the brief discussion and vote on our mission statement that reads, “We are building a welcoming, nurturing faith community that is guided by Jesus and shares the Gospel.” No changes to the mission statement were suggested, so **Ray Utter made a motion to keep the statement the same.** Lyla Timm seconded, and the **motion was approved by vote.**

Program Accomplishments – Avis Pedersen

Avis mentioned several recent accomplishments including Faith Lutheran's 75th Anniversary celebration, an update to our constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, our 2021 offering ending above expenses and the formation of audit and nominating committees.

Review of Goals – Jim Sheldon

Jim outlined the short-term (1-2 years) and long-term (3-5 years) goals of FLC. After a call for discussion, a vote was conducted with **Jennifer Prince motioning that the goals be approved as written**. Seconded by Meme May and the **motion was approved by vote**.

Approve Delegates for the Western ND Synod Assembly (June 4-5) – Jim Sheldon

Jim announced the FLC members who were identified by the Executive Committee to serve at the Western ND Synod Assembly. So far, they are Jim and Susan Sheldon and Deb Benson. Two additional members are being sought. **A motion was made by Dalana Mayer to accept the members**, seconded by Alan Dockter, and **approved by vote**.

Elect Members to the Nominating Committee – Jim Sheldon

The Executive Committee approved Jennifer Prince, Steve Sundvor, Amy Grace, and Deb Diede as four of the eventual six-member nominating committee. **Ray Utter made a motion to accept the members** and Meme May seconded. **Motion was approved by vote**.

Concrete Work -Parking Spots along Avenue C/Closing Prayer – Jim Sheldon

Before closing prayer, discussion was had about concrete work on the parking spaces along Avenue C. Before having the concrete surfaces redone, input is being sought from the congregation about other uses for some or all the parking spaces. Harvey Haakenson made the comment that the area becomes a “loading zone” during Sunday school.

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Sheldon at 10:41am.