

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, August 21, 2022, 11:00am via ZOOM and in person

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Charlie Wallin at 11:12 a.m.
2. **Determine Quorum** - Charlie announced that the first item is to determine if we have a Quorum in order to conduct the business of our meeting. Our new constitution stipulates a Quorum to be 25% of voting members -- this year that is 68 individuals.

Grace Constitution:

- C10.04. Twenty-five percent (68) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C.8.02.C. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.

We did have a quorum of 68! Having determined that we have a Quorum we will continue with our meeting.

3. **Opening Prayer - Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.**
4. **Review ZOOM meeting adjustments and conduct a practice vote.**

Charlie reviewed the ground rules for the meeting. Our meeting today is what is called a "Hi-Flex" format – meaning that we have participants both here in the Sanctuary and Online. Mary Ballard, our Vice President, will be helping to facilitate online participation in the meeting:

- General Information:
 - Every online voting member will need to log into the Zoom meeting on their own device or separate phone line in order to be eligible to vote in the meeting.
 - All online meeting participants will need to be muted in order to allow everyone to be able to hear the Council President.
 - Please type all motions and seconds into the Chat Box.
 - If you have a question, please click to "raise your hand" or type your question into the Chat Box. The meeting host will unmute participants. If you are on the phone

and would like to be recognized for a question, please dial *9 to let the meeting host know that you would like to speak.

- How to vote?
 - On the computer, tablet or phone, the meeting host will launch the vote which will appear as a pop-up multiple-choice question on your screen. Please tap or click your desired vote within the given time limit.
 - Over the phone, participants will dial *9 when the meeting host reads out the voting choices. Please note that phone votes are visible to everyone who is participating in the meeting.

5. Review and Approve Meeting Ground Rules - Charlie said we will review and approve the Meeting Ground Rules for all participants.

- When speaking:
 - Please begin with your name and then indicate whether you are speaking in favor of the motion at hand.
 - You can only speak on a motion one time, until everyone else has had an opportunity to speak.
 - Please be succinct and remain on topic.
- When listening:
 - Please remain quiet throughout the meeting unless you are recognized by the host to ask a question.
 - Please be respectful of differing opinions.

Charlie entertained a motion and a second to approve the Ground Rules for our meeting today. Motion by Jesse Lutabingwa. Seconded by Martha Kreszock. Unanimous vote.

6. Review and Approve Agenda

Charlie said he will entertain a motion and a second to Approve the Agenda for our meeting today. John Smyre made the motion. Jeff Voss seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The motion carries; we will follow the presented Agenda for our meeting today.

7. Review and Accept 2021-2022 Annual Report

Unfortunately, because of the staffing transitions this Summer, the Annual Report was not able to be compiled and ready for this meeting. Please accept our apologies and know that as soon as it is ready, we will share with the congregation. Again, our apologies for not having this document ready for

congregational review. It will be ready in Sept. No action needed

8. Receive Report from the Nominating Committee and Elections *(see next page)*

Charlie noted next on our Agenda is to elect our leaders for our Council and various boards. Below the Agenda, on page 3, you should have seen a full report from the nominating committee. We will take a few moments to talk through all of those details and after that we will ask for a motion to Elect the entire slate by Acclamation.

- (1) The Trexler Board Members are appointed by Council and presented to the Congregation. Our new Board members for next year are:
 - Gail Lund who will be serving a full 3-year term after completing a 2-year term.
 - Andy Burgess who will be serving a 3-year term.**

- (2) The Troutman Board Members are approved by Council and ratified by the Congregation. Our new members for next year are:
 - Jeff Voss who will be serving a 1-year term to fulfill an unexpired term.
 - Jeff Ramsdell will be serving a 3-year term after completing a 3-year term.**

- (3) The Jeffcoat Proctor Foundation Members are elected by Council and confirmed by the Congregation. Our new Board Member for next year is:
 - Janice Kopenhagen who will be serving a full 3-year term.**

- (4) Council Members are elected by the Congregation. Our Council nominees for next year are:
 - Wayne Powell who will complete the last year of an unexpired term.
 - Jordan Burkhart who will be serving a full 3-year term.
 - Jennifer Davis who will be serving a full 3-year term.
 - Carol Norris who will be serving a full 3-year
 - Alan Hauser who will be serving a full 3-year term after completing a 3-year term.
 - Suzanne Wise who will be serving a full 3-year term.**

- (5) Nominating Committee Members are elected by the Congregation. Each would serve a 1-year term: Charlie Wallin, Beth Reavis, Jennifer Dalton, Gail Lund, Kurt Fengler and Charlene Sox.**

- (6) 2023 Synod Assembly Voting Members are normally selected by the congregation. Our New Constitution allows the selection of Synod Assembly Voting members to be delegated to the Council.**

C5.04.01. By a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of

this congregation, the congregation may delegate the responsibility to the Congregational Council to elect, from among its voting members, persons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member.

The Synod requires that this stipulation be approved by the congregation each year.

Charlie said we will now move forward with the Elections. Our hope is to elect the entire slate of nominees as presented in the agenda. Therefore, I will entertain a motion and a second to close nominations and vote by acclamation to:

- Receive Nominees for the Trexler Board -- Gail Lund and Andy Burgess
- Ratify Nominees for the Troutman Board -- Jeff Voss and Jeff Ramsdell
- Confirm Nominees for the Jeffcoat-Proctor Board -- Janice Koppenhaver
- Elect Council Members -- Wayne Powell, Jordan Burkhart, Jennifer Davis, Alan Hauser and Susan Wise.
- Elect Nominating Committee Members – Charlie Wallin, Beth Reavis, Jennifer Dalton, Gail Lund, Kurt Fengler and Charlene Sox.
- And, Delegate the responsibility of electing Synod Assembly Voting Members to the Congregation Council.

Kristie Evans made the motion and Kelly Rucker seconded . Motion carried unanimously.

We will now proceed with our third vote on the motion to Close Nominations and to Elect the presented Slate of Nominees and by acclamation.

Congratulations to all of our new Board and Council members. We would also like to offer a special thanks to our Nominating Committee who worked quickly to ensure that there were wonderful nominees for each position: Peggy Clemmer, Bob Edsell, Sandy Moretz, Catherine Templeton, Jill Venable, and Cinda Williamson,

9. Review and Approve Proposed 2022-2023 Budget *(see other handout)*

Charlie noted that the next item on our agenda will be the approval of our Annual Budget. He hoped that everyone has had a chance to review the budget and he hoped that many took the time to participate in the information session earlier this morning.

Highlights from the CURRENT 2021-2022 budget year include:

- Giving was strong through the first 6 of the fiscal year. We were on pace to meet or exceed our budgeting giving.
- With the volatility in the markets and rising inflation, giving softened during the spring.

- However, we have seen stronger giving patterns in June and July, and are on pace to increase our giving over the previous year. Members can donate either online or by check.

Highlights for the 2020-2023 budget for next year include:

- We are challenging the congregation to increase our General Fund Giving by 10%.

- This increase will help us to:

- (1) be able to provide our new staff with the resources they need to help lead ministry;
- (2) give small raises to support and music ministry staff;
- (3) ensure that we can continue to offer BOTH in-person and online ministry;
- (4) ensure that LSA has the resources to continue to thrive;
- (5) prioritize deferred maintenance now that we are debt-free so that our facilities can be utilized by BOTH the congregation and wider community.

A motion was made by Eli Evans and seconded by Scott Evans. The motion carries. This budget will guide our ministry in the coming year.

10. Ratified Provisional Constitution

Back on February 27th, we held a Special Congregational Meeting to review and approve new Constitution and Bylaws for our congregation. In the case of the Constitution, we have been living with it in a provisional way for the past 6 months. The final step of the process is to ratify the Provisional Constitution to officially put it in place moving forward. The motion carries with one abstention. This Constitution has now been approved and ratified.

11. Recognize and Thank Outgoing, Ongoing and Newly Elected/Appointed Leaders

Charlie publicly thanked all of our outgoing leaders:

- Trexler -- Laura Just completed her partial term and now has moved to Wisconsin.
- Troutman -- Kevin Patterson served as president of the Troutman Board before resigning this past year.
- Jeffcoat-Proctor -- Bradley Dowdy completed his second full 3-year term on Jeffcoat-Proctor.
- Council -- Charlie Wallin, Janice Koppenhaver, and Beth Reavis are all completing their terms on Council. Charlie has served as Council president for 3 of his 6 years on Council; Janice has served as Secretary for the past 5 years (maybe 6?); Beth has been serving on the Council, leading Altar Guild and the Youth and Family Team!

Again, thank you to all of our outgoing leaders!

Charlie reminded participants that the COVID numbers and that we have guidelines that if the infection rates increase than we may need to adjust protocols.

12. Adjournment with Closing Prayer

Charlies said our final item of business for our Annual meeting will be to Adjourn with a Closing Prayer. We will now entertain a motion to Adjourn our 2021-2022 Annual Meeting with Prayer. Kristie Evans made the motion. Roger Bodo seconded. Motion carried. Pastor Steve offered up a Closing Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.