

Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting
University Lutheran Church of Hope
February 13, 2011

Opening hymn, prayer, and comments

Pastor Craig Shirley opened the meeting at 12:05 by leading us in devotions. President Gregg Landmark welcomed everybody, thanked Dan O'Loughlin and the Fellowship Meal crew, the staff and all who wrote and compiled the report. He introduced Jennifer MacDonald, our volunteer parliamentarian.

Gregg continued recognizing that there have been challenges in the economy in the past year.

Adoption of rules for the meeting

As no one asked for a reading of the rules of the meeting, it was moved, seconded, and carried that the rules be adopted.

Approval of previous minutes

Minutes of last year's annual meeting on February 7, 2010 were adopted by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's report for 2010

Gregg introduced Kelli Johnson and thanked her for the work that she does for the church. Treasurer Kelli Johnson presented the Treasurer's report, which she delivered calling attention to the financial reports for 2010 found on pages 22. She mentioned the 13th donut campaign and its significance in keeping the deficit from being even larger than the loss of \$7,316. Giving was \$25,000 less than budgeted. In 2010 we ended up with a deficit of \$7,118. Kelli also called attention to the list of benevolence gifts at each table.

Gregg asked for, and received a motion to accept the treasurer's report into the record; this was seconded and the motion carried. Donna Neste made the point that ISAIAH had no gifts from us for 2010 and that giving to other entities is only 5%. Kelli responded that the percentage given to benevolence is calculated on general giving only.

The motion carried to accept the treasurer's report.

Ministry Area presentations

Worship and Music – Uli Koester

Gregg presented Uli Koester's report thanking Scott and Pastor Shirley and the entire team for their effort in the area of worship. He also thanked all worship assistants. Gregg mentioned two highlights. First, there is a strong line up of guest preachers this year including Glenndy Ose and David Lose. Secondly, the team is looking forward to worship on the new patio, a new format this year for Lent, using screens and projections in the worship space, and new roles for children assisting in worship. Gregg asked on Uli's behalf that people support special services by attending.

Youth and Young Adults – Ann Beane

Ann Beane said that she is now coming to the end of her term. The current program offerings and staffing are a dream come true from the original thoughts on building these programs. With Matt Fleming as Youth Director, Josh Toufar as Young Adults Ministry Director, and Pastor Kate Reuer, campus pastor at Grace, these ministries have come into being. Thanks to the Dream Team for their support of these ministries.

Education – Madhu Bhat

Madhu Bhat offered as synopsis of educational ministries. Children to age three use SPLASH curriculum. These families get together four times a year. For ages 3-7, we use Godly Play curriculum which assists in creating skills to wonder and come to conclusions. For grades 3 and up, we use the SPARK curriculum. Adult Forum Planning Team thanks Bruce Eldevik for his past service and also thanks Scott Hvizdos as a new member of Adult Forum Planning Team. Madhu also thanked Children's Ministry Team. She asked that everybody invite those whom you know. The team has had the challenge of wanting to do more. As Madhu concluded, "I hope you'll pray for us as we meet the challenges ahead. I know two things about this congregation. First it is committed to education and it is generous to this ministry area."

Hope in the World – JoAnn Bablitch

JoAnn Bablitch, who works in a school, brought three bags as props to represent the three various facets of Hope for the World. For World Missions, she displayed a globe of the world and mentioned the partnership with the church in Nigeria through the synod's companion structure. The pastor from Jos, Nigeria is coming on July 17 with his family.

The second area is social justice. For 25 years, Tim Abrahamson has been in charge of Loaves and Fishes. He and a very dedicated group of people prepare and serve a meal once a month. Jo Schroeder and Bryan Kufus co-chair and coordinate Families Moving Forward and the many volunteers required to host families twice a year. Karen Caplow has graciously agreed to continue as the church's liaison with Meals on Wheels. Karen Westwood, Wayne Westwood, and Marty Lewis-Hunstiger organized the community Thanksgiving dinner and cleanup activities. Thanks to everybody who contributed food and money.

The third bag which was empty and flat had nothing in it and represented outreach activities. Mission Renewal report did not highlight outreach when it was written. This is the time for visioning. Pastor Shirley had a wonderful sermon a few weeks ago to challenge us. The Apostle Paul said the hearts were burning. We know that one person like Greg Mortenson or the Google organizer in Egypt can make a huge difference. JoAnn exhorted everybody to assist in filling the bag for next year and to please join her. She concluded by thanking everybody for all they do.

Relational Ministries – Renée Real-Banas

Renée Real-Banas mentioned that Diane Shallue has brought together a small group ministry team to focus on new members and getting them involved. This is the third year of Hope Connections which is comprised of both continuing and new groups. It is a great way for people to bond within the congregation. A new Member Ministry Team will help get newer people involved. Renée gave a plug for coffee hour and requested that people please sign up to host coffee hour.

Renée introduced Pastor Esther Dant who remembered being told we need to be a more nurturing community. She has been paying attention to that comment. Congregational care includes the Friendly Visitor program, visiting the homebound, and now we begin a another program called Compassion Care. Joan Campbell, Bill Sanden, and Carol Steinberg are part of this new team. The program will begin by taking the next two Sundays during Adult Forum to teach about grief. Please come to the forum even if you will not become part of the team. On Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00, training is scheduled on four more topics: listening, confidentiality, boundaries, and depression. The group will be looking at topics that people in crisis will be facing. These one-to-one relationships are totally confidential. This short training is intended for both those who want to continue in this new ministry and those who will not be going beyond the training.

Gregg said the ministry reports were given as a means of bringing up all the ministries and the involvement of so many in the room. Many have answered a call to these ministries internally and externally. If something sounds interesting or fits you in particular, please reach out to anybody in leadership to join in these ministries.

Presentation and approval of 2011 Budget

Gregg introduced Kelli. Treasurer Kelli Johnson returned to the floor to outline the 2011 budget printed on page 26, proposed by the Vision and Governance Board. Back in December all ministries turned in their budget requests. Giving would have to increase by 7.5% to give a 2% increase in salaries to staff. Vision and Governance Board asked Kelli to create a second budget with a 3.5% increase and 1 percent increase for staff. \$510,000 is needed to cover fixed costs. Only \$40,000 is left for discretionary spending. Based on contributions received this year, a 3.5% increase seemed more acceptable and feasible. A motion was made to adopt the budget as presented by Kelli. The motion was seconded. James Flaten asked about finance costs and fixed costs since they do indicate changes between the two budgets when by nature these are totally fixed costs. Kelli replied that she changed each line item by \$50-100. Merrill Morse asked about custodial expenses which moved previously from salaries to operations. The motion carried to accept the budget as Kelli presented it.

Review of capital campaign and introduction to I2H2

David Engebretson summarized the current capital campaign, Invitation to Hope (I2H) saying that we are now 2.5 years into the three-year campaign. The projects completed thus far include the patio and sound system. A sum of \$5,000 has been dedicated to an information kiosk, the welcome center. The primary focus of the next capital campaign, I2H2, is debt reduction. We would continue giving 7.5% to benevolence and 15% to a capital reserve fund. From the current capital campaign, we gave gifts to Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota, Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, Habitat for Humanity, Families Moving Forward, Loaves & Fishes, Bread for the World, and Minneapolis Area Synod for St. Peter's, Jos, Nigeria.

Advanced givers will be contacted in March; David will speak at the April 10 adult forum; the kick off will be in July.

As examples David mentioned that we would save \$225,000 and 40 months of payments by paying \$2,000 more per month on the mortgage. Alternatively, we would save \$330,000 and 60 months of payments if we paid \$4,000 more per month.

Recognition of outgoing board members and staff

Gregg noted the end of the elected term for Ann Beane who has been leading youth and young adult ministries for the past two years. She also served as board liaison to Executive Committee. Gregg thanked Ann for all her efforts.

Gregg recognized Jack Dant as past president and Vision and Governance Board member for several years. Jack ably guided the congregation through the process for new bylaws and constitution, and currently he is shepherding the welcome center.

2011 Leadership Development Support Team Report

Gregg introduced Cory Olson to give Leadership Development Support Team's report. Their work includes attempts to find people for positions on board and other elected areas. They have tried to get more women to serve. He urged the group to think of their gifts. We all need to participate in a role at this church. Perhaps it is a supporting role. It takes dedication and sacrifice, but we do want people to keep this in mind and encourage more people to find a good fit for themselves. We need everyone to get involved. If you are already serving in such a role, find some people who can come behind you to work into the positions. We need people for the next decade and into the future.

Gregg called attention to page 27 in annual report booklets. Underlined names are running for office including Mark Nelson, Joan Campbell, Sonja Peterson, and Kathryn Carpenter.

The congregation maintains power to vote on other positions but clarification is needed regarding term lengths and term limits. Gregg will draft an update of bylaws and constitution.

Gregg opened the floor for nominations for the youth and young adult position. Hearing none, David Ranheim, a member of Leadership Development Support Team, spoke. He said they had tried to get people for this position but nobody else stepped forward. Katie and Cory Olson have been part of the Young Adult/Youth Ministries. David nominated Katie and Cory Olson as a team. Cory will stay on Leadership Development Support Team.

We have one other slot to fill for a second delegate to the synod assembly, and a youth delegate can also be nominated for the one-day assembly on Saturday, May 7. Clara Dunnwald was nominated for the youth position. Renée Real-Banas volunteered to be the other adult delegate.

Sonja Peterson is nominated for Personnel Committee. Joan Campbell is nominated for Financial Controls Committee. Kathryn Carpenter is nominated for Trust Board.

Gregg asked for any other nominees. Hearing none, a motion was made to accept the slate of candidates by unanimous consent. The motion was seconded. As a member of Leadership Development, Joan Campbell thanked Mark Nelson for his willingness to take on the vice president role. The motion carried.

Gregg turned the leadership to our new congregational president, David Engebretson. David thanked Gregg for his great service during tough economic conditions.

Announcements

Pastor Craig Shirley asked for help with cleanup. Jack Dant recognized the staff for their service and continued efforts on behalf of this community. Thank you to Jennifer MacDonald, our parliamentarian.

JoAnn Bablitch said it has been great to serve on the board with all the young leaders of this church.

Gregg Landmark made a motion as follows: The Congregation delegates its power to elect the members of its Standing and Special committees as provided under Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3i, to the Vision and Governance Board for the year 2011. The Congregation reserves the right to veto any election of Standing and Special Committee members elected by the Vision and Governance Board under this delegation of power. The motion was seconded and carried.

Closing blessing

Pastor Shirley then led us in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Bidne
Administrator