

University Lutheran Church of Hope
Congregational Meeting
June 22, 2008

President Bob Moluf called the meeting to order at 11:15am.

Bob recalled the need for sprinklers and its role in leading to the extensive remodeling we completed in the summer of 2006. Bob recalled the special congregational meeting of June, 2007, at which we received the report of the Mission Renewal task force; the congregation commended this task force and approved changing the staffing and governance structure of the church. Following up on the needed bylaws changes, we decided to go ahead without the changes needed, that we would rewrite the bylaws and have them ready for this meeting.

Bob pointed out that there are copies of the proposed bylaws on the tables; there are agendas also. Responding to a query, Bob reminded us that the current bylaws are available to anyone in a number of forms. The proposed changes are as consistent as they can be with the recommendations of the Mission Renewal task force.

Bob outlined the 3 purposes of this meeting; bylaws, nominations, and the process of revising the constitution. He also indicated that this meeting is not authorized to discuss any other business.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the agenda.

We moved on to the business of adopting the new bylaws. After Bob's introductory remarks, it was moved and seconded to adopt the bylaws.

Leroy Halvorsen commented that he feels we really need to have published copies of the old bylaws and a summary of the changes proposed. Bob replied that the summary of changes would have been a large and hard-to-follow document due to the extensiveness of the detail changes.

Sonja Peterson, a member of the Mission Renewal task force, reported that the changes in the bylaws reflect the recommendations of that group. She went on to move that this topic be laid on the table pending further suggested changes and review, pending the next congregational meeting which will be in February, 2009. During the discussion, Sonja went on to outline some examples of the changes she recommends. Kirsten Mebust suggested a better option might be to adopt the bylaws and amend them at that later meeting. Bob read germane paragraphs from our current bylaws. Uli Koester spoke against the motion, saying that the draft is the culmination of 2 years of work by good people and that we should vote on them now. David Ranheim also spoke against the motion, indicating this is the time to bring it to a vote and reminding everyone that they can be revised further if it warrants. Marty Dorow suggested, if there are minor changes, we could make them now. Marilyn Preus asked for reassurance that the changes incorporated in the draft reflect the model presented to the congregation. Pastor Craig Shirley gave this assurance, indicating there are "no surprises" in this draft. The leaders who have worked on this are solid people and prepared the draft in a manner consistent with the congregation's goals.

In response, Sonja Peterson and Leroy Halvorsen agreed to withdraw their motion to postpone action. We returned to the original motion that we adopt the draft bylaws.

Marty Lewis-Hunstiger spoke in favor of the motion. Sonja Peterson mentioned that the changes she is suggesting are quite minor.

The motion to adopt the amended bylaws recommended by the Vision & Governance Board on March 13, 2008 was adopted. The secretary will forward the new bylaws to the Minneapolis Area Synod for their review.

President Bob Moluf moved us on to nominations. Under the new procedures, members of the Leadership Development Support Team will take responsibility for nominations. We have 3 nominees for this team, which is sufficient; Bob asked if there are additional names to be nominated. No new names were put forth. It was moved, seconded, and carried to name Tom Frost, Ingrid Lee, and Cory Olson to the Leadership Development Support Team.

Next agenda item was to discuss the procedure for revising the constitution. Bob turned the floor over to Past President Karmi Mattson.

Karmi wishes to let us know we will be making changes to the Constitution and, whereas we are not here today to discuss changes, she wishes to make us aware this will happen and that the changes must be approved at two congregational meetings no less than 9 months apart. We're looking at the annual meetings of 2008, to be held in February of 2009; and of 2009, to be held in February of 2010.

As we are making changes, we wish also to be able to call a lesbian or gay pastor in a committed relationship, meaning someone not on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America roster. She wishes to have the congregation start a conversation on this and all changes to the constitution. A task force will be formed and much listening will be done before the annual meeting in February, 2009. She solicits volunteers to be on the task force.

Leslie Frost took the floor to announce the Festival of Hope, to be held on Sunday, August 24, the culmination of Music Camp week. Food, games, fun for everyone, bring money. She made a pitch for Families Moving Forward and for a number of in-kind contributions.

President Bob Moluf thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting and to all the people who have worked so hard at Mission Renewal and the Capital Campaign.

Pastor Craig Shirley thanked those who have done so much for the congregation; he then led us in a closing blessing.