

# Congregational Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2022

This meeting was conducted through Zoom. Access to the Annual Report was provided on line at <http://www.ulch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-Annual-Report-Final.pdf> Hard copies of the report were available to be picked up before the meeting at the ULCH office.

## **Welcome** – Uli Koester

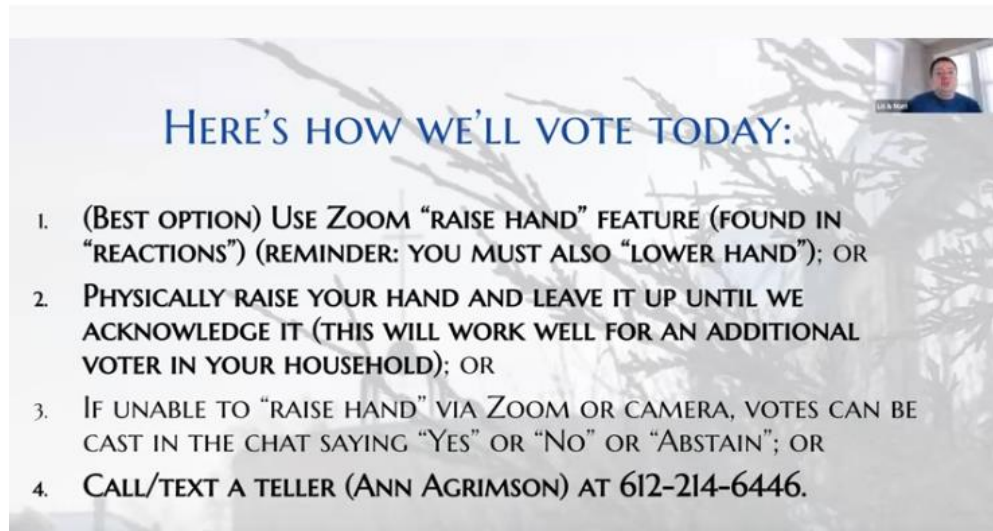
The meeting was called to order by President Uli Koester at 1:01pm Uli welcomed all in attendance, both in-person and on Zoom.

## **Opening Prayer/Litany** – led by Pastor Barbara Johnson.

The Litany and Prayer were shared on screen and located on the back page of the Annual Report.

Those helping with the meeting were recognized: Joan Campbell, Parliamentarian; Brady Wilmer, Ann Agrimson, and Matt Fry, Tellers; Bruce Eldevik, Minutes; Ann Agrimson, Bruce Eldevik, Nancy Miller, and Nathan Obrestad who compiled and collated the Report

The procedure for voting was outlined by Matt Fry as follows:



**HERE'S HOW WE'LL VOTE TODAY:**

1. (BEST OPTION) USE ZOOM "RAISE HAND" FEATURE (FOUND IN "REACTIONS") (REMINDER: YOU MUST ALSO "LOWER HAND"); OR
2. PHYSICALLY RAISE YOUR HAND AND LEAVE IT UP UNTIL WE ACKNOWLEDGE IT (THIS WILL WORK WELL FOR AN ADDITIONAL VOTER IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD); OR
3. IF UNABLE TO "RAISE HAND" VIA ZOOM OR CAMERA, VOTES CAN BE CAST IN THE CHAT SAYING "YES" OR "NO" OR "ABSTAIN"; OR
4. CALL/TEXT A TELLER (ANN AGRIMSON) AT 612-214-6446.

Ann Agrimson reported an approximate meeting attendance of 90.

## **Adoption of Roberts Rules for the meeting** – Uli Koester

The rules for the meeting were shared on the screen and also found on page 13 of the Annual Report.

**Motion #1:** A motion to adopt meeting rules as printed in the Annual Report was seconded and carried.

## **Approval of Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting** – Uli Koester

**Motion #2:** A motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting as printed in the Annual Report was seconded and carried.

## Solar Update – Tim Abrahamson.

Tim recognized Stewart Herman as a co-leader of the solar project. The project began during the summer and fall of 2019. In consultation with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, Sundial Solar was selected as our contractor. The following slides detail how the project unfolded.

### DELAYS... AND A REVISED PLAN

- **Fall/Winter of 2020/21:** After further meetings with Sundial Solar, we learned that the contractor selected to build our canopy pulled out of all their canopy projects. It took several months to line up a new contractor.
- **Winter 2021:** We expanded the size of the parking lot array to increase the efficiency of our system, enabling us to remove the partially shaded panels on the flat roof—providing a better return on our investment.
- Because of its larger size, we moved the array from the original location (adjacent to the building's north side of the education wing) to the middle of the parking lot.

### MAKING COMMITMENTS AND GETTING STARTED....

- **May/June 2020:** Presentation to the Vision & Governance Board and the congregation, which approved a 91kW array consisting of panels on the flat roofs and a small canopy in the church parking lot adjacent to the building's north side of the education wing.
- **Summer/Fall 2020:** Signed contracts with Sundial Solar for installation of the system and Collective Sun for sharing the tax credit benefits. Applied for a Green Cost Share Grant from the City of Minneapolis. (All Minneapolis Green Cost Share Grants were put on hold during 2020.)

### 2ND CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL

- **May 2021:** The congregation approves the new configuration and additional cost, and we move forward to secure contractors and suppliers. We reapply for a Minneapolis Green Cost Share Grant and are approved for \$20,800.



## February 2022:

Electrical installation is approved by the City of Minneapolis. We are currently waiting for Xcel Energy to process the paperwork and install a meter. Then we will be tied to the electrical grid and will begin producing solar generated electricity.



Tim then reviewed the project's finances.

## FINANCIALS

A 91 Kilowatt Array was approved by the congregation 6/14/2020 and 5/2/21	Financing Sources for Solar Array	Contract Amounts
	Income	Expense
System Cost: Sundial Solar		-292,972
Collective Sun Tax Partner: 12% of Proposed Cost	35,147	
Minneapolis Green Cost Share Grant	20,800	
ULCH Trust Board Grant	10,900	
ULCH Opening Doors Capital Campaign	25,000	
ULCH Trust Board Loan: 3.5% for 15 years (\$12,439/year) 1st Payment 12/2020	145,000	
ULCH Member Gifts	71,152	
Blue Sky Electric: Additional cost for 3 underground conduits for future lighting, receptacles, and car chargers at the canopy		-11,550
Totals	\$307,999	-\$304,522
Difference	\$3,477	

Following the report, many appreciative and congratulatory comments were expressed, thanking Tim and Stewart. One question was raised: "How does the loan from the Trust Board get repaid?" Tim replied that it will be offset once the solar installation begins generating electricity, reducing the cost of electric power from Xcel Energy.

Tim concluded by reporting that there will be a celebration regarding the completion of the project sometime in April.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Emma Carpenter

In her report Emma presented slides detailing financial figures for the 2021 Capital Campaign, 2021 Actual vs. Budget Income and Expense, the 2021 Balance sheet and 2021 Benevolences.

# Capital Campaign – Opening Doors



## Income

2021 Contributions	208,971
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>208,971</b>
<b>Pledges to Opening Doors Capital Campaign</b>	<b>440,000</b>
Difference	231,029

Projects Completed:  
 1. Monthly Mortgage Payments  
 2. Virtual Worship Enhancements  
 3. Supplement Operations Budget

## 2021 Capital Campaign



Income Statement		Balance Sheet	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>217,463</b>
Contributions Income	228,585	<b>Planned Expenses for 2022</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>228,585</b>	Benevolence Distribution: 7% of \$440,000	10,267
<b>Expenses</b>		3 Organizations	
Benevolence	28,116	Supplement Operations Budget	8,000
Building Improvements / Projects	27,435	Solar Project Contribution	25,000
Mortgage Subsidy	83,027	Mortgage Subsidy	83,027
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>138,578</b>		
Interest Income	873		
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>90,881</b>		

The following slide outlined congregational income for 2021.

## 2021 Actual v. Budget



	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)	
General Giving	507,283	502,487	4,796	101% of the Budget
Rental Income	128,442	121,986	6,456	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 635,724</b>	<b>\$ 624,473</b>	<b>\$ 11,251</b>	Contract Parking and PEASE Academy

The following slide outlined congregational expenses for 2021.



## 2021 Actual v. Budget

	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)	
Salaries & Benefits	304,937	338,796	(33,859)	Staff Transitions
Administration	36,805	35,180	1,625	
Operations	142,582	142,554	28	\$8K transferred from the Capital Campaign
Education	1,102	3,198	(2,096)	
Hope in the World	3,791	6,200	(2,409)	
Worship	4,102	9,786	(5,684)	
Relational	773	2,100	(1,327)	
Youth & Young Adult	(45)	1,100	(1,145)	
Mission Support	32,662	32,662	-	6.5% of budgeted general giving
Finance	52,897	52,897	-	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$579,605</b>	<b>624,9473</b>	<b>-\$45,868</b>	

## 2021 Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Accounts	453,735	MIF Mortgage	623,883
		Note Payable (Solar Loan)	136,880
		Equity	
		Total Dedicated Accounts	172,607
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>3,138,286</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities + Equity</b>		<b>3,138,286</b>	

## 2021 Benevolences

General		Capital Campaign	
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light	500	The One Fund	624
ISAIAH	522	Lutheran Campus Ministries	624
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative	2,000	Lutheran Church of Christ Nigeria	624
Every Meal	2,406	Global Health Ministries	3,124
Lutheran Campus Ministries	2,590	Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative	3,124
Lutheran University in Nigeria**	9,227	First Nations Kitchen	3,124
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,245</b>	Women's Advocates	3,124
		Shobi's Table	3,124
		<b>Total</b>	<b>17,492</b>
Mission Support			
(Given to the work of the ELCA wider church through Minneapolis Area Synod)			
	<b>32,662</b>		
Totals			
Total Rolling Waters	13,000	General Giving	\$507,283
Total General, Mission Support and Capital	67,399	% of General Giving	15.8% / 13.3%*
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	<b>80,339</b>	Revenue	\$635,724
		% of Revenue	12.6% / 10.6%*

There was no discussion.

**Motion #3** A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report regarding 2021 financials was M/S/C.

## Ministry Review – Jen Nagel

Leaders and staff at Hope informally stated reasons for their excitement about the future at Hope – the staff, the solar project, the benevolences, the outdoor projects, and many more.

A **Ministry in Review** slideshow followed.

## Presentation and approval of the 2022 Budget –Emma Carpenter

Emma presented the budget for 2022 detailed in the following slides:



## Pledge / Giving History

Year	Pledge	% Increase / (Decrease)	General Giving	% Increase / (Decrease)
2022	428,707	4.94	*510,161	
2021	408,526	1.55	507,492	0.72
2020	402,295	8.59	503,839	4.60
2019	370,460	6.76	481,700	3.65
2018	346,995	14.01	464,718	7.30
2017	304,364	6.34	433,100	4.80
2016	286,219	3.58	413,250	-1.61
2015	276,328		420,000	

*\*pledge to budget ratio of 1.19*

## 2022 Proposed Budget

2022			
General Giving	510,161	General Giving	\$495,161
		Holiday Giving	\$7,000
		Online/Loose Giving	\$8,000
Rental Income	154,951	Parking Lot Rental	\$43,200
		PEASE Academy	\$110,551
Total Income	\$665,112	Use of Facilities	\$1,200

A **motion** to approve the budget for 2022 was made and seconded. Discussion: **Q:** What will be the financial impact of Pastor Jen's sabbatical? **A:** Emma replied that there should be no financial impact to the general budget due to several grants received for that purpose in addition to donations from members of the congregation. **Q:** Should the staff salary increase be more than 2%?. **A:** 2% is felt to be in line with what the budget can accommodate, in addition to the three additional vacation days given to staff. **Q:** What is the sabbatical fund? **A:** Emma replied it is a dedicated account on the balance sheet to be used for miscellaneous expenses. **Q:** Can we know who the external funding sources are? **A:** Uli replied that is not being put out there because some funders want to keep their identity private. Jen added that we did not apply for a Lilly grant, but other ways were found to fund the sabbatical. **Q:** How will the coverage for pastoral duties during Jen's sabbatical be handled? **A:** Jen replied that coverage for her sabbatical is being arranged with Pastors Tom Carlson and Erik Strand who will be teaming up.

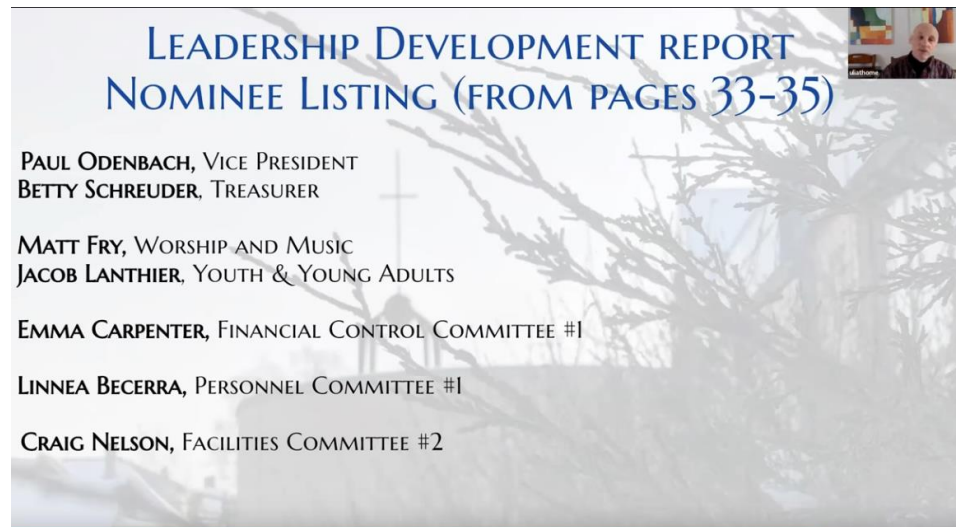
Following these questions, the **motion** to approve the budget for 2022 was carried

**Recognition of outgoing Board members.** – Uli Koester

Uli thanked Tim Abrahamson, Emma Carpenter, and Brady Wilmer for their service on the Vision and Governance Board: Brady as Liaison for Youth and Young Adults and on the Executive Committee; Emma as Treasurer; and Tim as Vice-President, President, and, Past President/Chair of the Personnel Committee.

**2022 Leadership Development Report** – Uli Koester

Uli presented the current slate of nominees to be elected to leadership positions at Hope.

A presentation slide titled "LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT" and "NOMINEE LISTING (FROM PAGES 33-35)". The slide lists nominees for various roles: Paul Odenbach (Vice President), Betty Schreuder (Treasurer), Matt Fry (Worship and Music), Jacob Lanthier (Youth & Young Adults), Emma Carpenter (Financial Control Committee #1), Linnea Becerra (Personnel Committee #1), and Craig Nelson (Facilities Committee #2). The background features a faint image of a church interior with a cross and a small video inset in the top right corner showing a person speaking.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT**  
**NOMINEE LISTING (FROM PAGES 33-35)**

PAUL ODENBACH, VICE PRESIDENT  
BETTY SCHREUDER, TREASURER

MATT FRY, WORSHIP AND MUSIC  
JACOB LANTHIER, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

EMMA CARPENTER, FINANCIAL CONTROL COMMITTEE #1

LINNEA BECERRA, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE #1

CRAIG NELSON, FACILITIES COMMITTEE #2

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

LINDA STEWART, GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY COMMITTEE #1  
JAY CARLSON, GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY COMMITTEE #2  
JAN JOHNSON, GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY COMMITTEE #3  
DEB STRAND, GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY COMMITTEE #4

ESTHER DANT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE #2  
PAIGE WHITNEY, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE #3

MERI HAUGE, HOPE TRUST BOARD #3  
TIM HOPKINS, HOPE TRUST BOARD #4

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS - APRIL 30, 2022

FEMALE VOTING MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MALE VOTING MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH VOTING MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Jen reported concerning delegates to the Synod Assembly on April 30.

Ann Agrimson has put her name forward as female delegate. A male delegate, alternate, and youth delegates are still needed.

Doug Hartman reported for the Leadership Development Committee that Paul Odenbach recused himself from the Committee when he was encouraged to become a nominee for the Vice-president position.

The following **motion** to approve the Leadership Development Report was M/S/C.

### 2022 ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

#### MOTION 5:

ACCEPT SLATE OF CANDIDATES AS  
SUGGESTED BY LEADERSHIP &  
DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROVE VOTING  
MEMBERS TO THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA  
SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

#### Recognition of Staff

The names of current Hope staff members were read and received a round of applause.

#### Passing of the Gavel

The President's gavel was passed (virtually) from Uli Koester to Ann Agrimson. Ann expressed her appreciation for Uli's wisdom and service during his year as congregational president.

Pastor Jen gave a closing benediction.

A **motion** to adjourn was moved and carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Notes take by Bruce Eldevik