

Oak Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2018

Attendance: The meeting announcement was posted in the church's weekly bulletin which is delivered to congregants both electronically and in paper form. In addition, Pastor Christman announced that all members of the congregation were invited to attend immediately following Worship Service.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Bill Smith at 10:20 am. Mr. Smith led the congregation in prayer.

Mr. Smith and Pastor Christman distributed the *Oak Grove Annual Reports for 2018*. He expressed his appreciation to outgoing Church Council members Ollie Dambach, Ruth Goehring, and Barb Minzenberg. He also announced the following new Council Representatives: Kristen Clyde, Katie Furbee, and Ken Goehring. The new Council members have accepted a three year term and were welcomed into the group.

In introducing Ms. Charen Bennett, Treasurer, Mr. Smith thanked former Treasurer Brandon James, Don Stoebe and Carmie Dambach for assisting in the smooth transition to the new Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Charen Bennett presented the *2018 Oak Grove Summary for Annual Meeting*, which outlines the key Income, Expenses, Synod Mission Support, and Non-Budget Expenses for 2018 for Oak Grove. She noted that we have a surplus of \$3,166 for the first time in many years.

Mrs. Bennet also mentioned that the Synod Mission Support is pledged at \$10,000.00. In 2018, Oak Grove came very close to meeting that goal, falling shy by just \$254.

Some strategies used to improve efficiencies this year include: 1) combining savings accounts; 2) investing in higher interest Certificates of Deposits (CDs); 3) staggering terms of the CDs so that they mature in one, two, or three year terms.

The Treasurer's Report was filed as record.

Committee Reports. Mr. Smith gave the congregants time to review the Committee Reports. These reports were written in the format designed during the Long Range Planning Process which asks not only that committees report on their activities and accomplishments, but look toward the future and discuss goals, barriers, and types of supports needed.

Following review of the Committee Reports, congregants had no questions. Mr. Smith expressed appreciation to all members who contributed to the success of the various committees in the church.

Church Constitution. Brandon James reviewed that proposed changes have been suggested to the church constitution; these changes are in keeping with Synod recommendations. He made a motion that congregants accept the proposed changes; the motion passed via a unanimous verbal vote.

Mission Support. Pastor Christman made a motion that \$254 be directed to Mission Support, fulfilling our entire pledge of \$10,000. Taunalynn Perenovich 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Pastor. Pastor recalled that seven years ago when he began his service to Oak Grove, the congregation needed to withdraw \$22,000 from its savings account to meet expenses. Conversely, in 2018, Oak Grove is growing and experiencing a surplus. He noted that scripture tells us that if we stop moving, we die. Oak Grove has something important to offer to people. He challenged us to bring a guest to Oak Grove Worship Service, invite someone to become involved in the garden, or bring someone to one of our programs.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Lois Smith; 2nd by Carmie Dambach. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Pastor Christman led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Minzenberg, Council Secretary