

Community of Grace Lutheran Church

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

Mark Schuneman, Church Council President, called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM and declared a quorum was present.

Pastor Darrin Vick opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tellers were appointed including lead tellers Dave and Arlene Nietz, with Curt and Kathy Schneider serving as assistants.

Additional appointments included Mike Kaytor as Parliamentarian and Michelle Sherman as Recording Secretary.

Mark Schuneman introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the last annual meeting held on January 22, 2023, and this motion received a second. After the opportunity for discussion, the motion to approve the minutes as written was carried unanimously.

Report of Nominating Committee:

Prior to introducing nominations for the 2024 Church Council positions, Mark Schuneman introduced members of the 2023 Council and shared their roles. Updates are as follows:

- Mark Schuneman and Michelle Sherman are stepping down after two consecutive terms.
- Mike Hamernick and Dennis Engman were nominated for a second term.
- Craig Pearson and Tim Meier were nominated for a first term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mark Schuneman introduced the names of those serving on the **Audit Committee**. Updates are as follows:

- Steve Scidmore has completed his term.
- Steve Nelson was nominated for a 3-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mark Schuneman introduced the names of those serving on the **Endowment Fund Committee**.

- Paul Martinson completed his term.
- Mike Kaytor was nominated to a 5-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mark Schuneman introduced the names of those serving on the **Nominating Committee**.

- Kyle Anderson, Irina Orf, and Joe Ehrman completed their terms.
- Frank Carlson resigned from the committee.
- Dan McMahon, Tod Sherman, Sandy Anderson, and Lisa Ehrman were nominated. The term for each nominee will be agreed upon at the first meeting of the nominating committee, with 1 member holding a 1-year term and 3 members holding a 3-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

All nominations were closed. Voting occurred with written ballots and the tellers collected the ballots.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Darrin Vick

Jeremiah 6:16: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."

Pastor Darrin has referred to this verse since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, asking the Lord "where are we going? How long is this going to last?"

Pastor Darrin sees many possibilities at the cross-roads, and is continuing to collaborate, listen and hear the many ideas that have been shared by the congregation through our work with Kairos and Associates. Above all, we will need to trust in the Lord in the process.

CGLC staff, council, and leaders from Magnusson Christian School (MCS) met on Saturday, January 27, 2024, for a 6-hour meeting to pray, listen, and discern what we have been hearing thus far. CGLC and MCS will be leaning in together in our relationship after a season that included some drifting apart in various ways.

CGLC is invited to attend the MCS Open House on Tuesday, 2/13/24, to come and see what is happening in the school, and show support for the teachers, leaders, and the school. People can also call Heather Norman, the Director of MCS, to arrange a visit.

Pastor Darrin concluded by saying thank you to -

- CGLC for being an amazing congregation for giving, serving, and being the church family.
- the church council for their talent and time commitments.
- the amazing staff of CGLC for their service and incredible gifts they utilize every day.
- Pastor Angie, the best associate Pastor he has ever worked with or known.
- his wife Angela, and his family for their love and support.

- Mark Schuneman, for his leadership and his role on the council for Pastor Darrin's entire tenure at CGLC thus far. Pastor Darrin proceeded to present Mark with a gift card to Big Guys BBQ.

President's Report: Mark Schuneman

Thinking about the past year, Mark looks to April 1 for the Egg Hunt when we received a foot of snow and the event was still pulled off successfully, with the Lord providing the way for CGLC to be a light in our community with close to 500 people attending.

Other highlights included the food packing event for Haiti, VBS success, and many other ways we showed God's love to our community.

Mark asked the staff to stand for a round of applause for the amazing work that they do.

Mark asked Britta to take the stage to introduce a new platform, a fully integrated administrative system to better serve the needs of the staff and congregation. It replaces MyCG and is called Church Center. The benefits include -

1. More user-friendly platform
2. Automatically updating app
3. One software instead of multiple

Data has been securely transferred to the Church Center platform. The last two years of giving history are in the process of being transferred. Historical access to 7 full years of giving data will be available. When the transfer is complete, MyCG will be scrubbed.

Data protection and privacy is a high priority. Each person will have the ability to control what data they have available in Church Center.

Next steps for the congregation:

- Download Church Center, with the directions that were distributed.
- Update your contact information in Church Center
- Upload photos of you and your family to Church Center

This will be our new giving platform, and you can also register for events on it. For current recurring givers, a letter will be sent out from Mike Mathisen.

On Sunday mornings in February, there will be a help desk available for people to work with Mike Mathisen to privately set up their giving from 10:00 am – 10:30 am. Additional times will be added in March if needed. You can also contact the information desk during regular business hours for assistance.

Church Center also provides a digital directory, which is not publicly accessible. It is an opt-in directory, and people must be invited in and approved by a staff member, with

options on how much data they want to share in the directory. If you do not receive an email to join the directory in the next week, please contact the staff.

Pastor Angie's report

Pastor Angie's last sabbatical leave was in 2016, and she will be taking her next sabbatical from April 1, 2024, through June 14, 2024. This period starts the day after Easter and ends the day before the Garage Sale. The time away will allow Pastor Angie to spend more time with her family for special occasions.

She will also be working on a project in preparation for the 140th anniversary of CGLC in four years. She will be streamlining previous historical summaries to pull them together into a cohesive document. She thanked the congregation for providing this sabbatical gift and opportunity to her.

Treasurer's Report; Andy Hennig

Andy reviewed the 2023 financial results highlights.

2023 Ministry Funding Results

- Fully funded ministry and added some back into reserves.
- Total Income - \$1,526,290
- Total Expenses - \$1,517,085
- Building Reserve Fund Balance of \$688,497
 - \$234,259 increase in Building/Reserve Fund in 2023 including -
 - \$221,306 Employee Retention Credit (Covid Era Government Grant). This one-time gain is not reflected in the income in the budget.
 - \$9,205 Income from 2023
 - \$3,748 balance in Canopy of Grace 2.0 roofing project which has been completed and paid. This account has been closed and is now in the general fund.

Our present Endowment Fund balance is \$1,053,303.

- New Gifts in 2023 - \$16,150
- Distributed in 2023 for Facility Needs - \$64,585
- See handout for the facility projects that were funded by the endowment fund in the Endowment Fund Report that was distributed.

Next, Andy introduced the 2024 budget proposal for \$1,680,700. This total is \$154,409.97 above the 2023 actuals. Anticipated Total 2024 Expenses of \$1,679,860 is \$62,775.34 above 2023 Actuals.

Andy reviewed pertinent details regarding increases and decreases in expenses for line items in the proposed 2024 budget:

- Rent increase for our partners has been agreed upon with them.
- Fees for ministry activities will now be accounted for in the budget.
- Approximately \$148,000 increase in contributions and offerings
- Expenses
 - Worship – no change.
 - Groups – increased by \$5,450.
 - Service - no change.
 - Care – senior outreach increased by \$500.
 - Operations – increased approximately \$30,000 due to insurance, utilities, and custodial expenses.
- Personnel budget reflects full year salaries for recent hires and raises for staff at an approximate increase of \$25,000.
- Missions – no change.

Questions/Discussion

- Do we need the same number of furnaces? Yes, all of them are needed because of how the church was built. Consolidating them would require an additional \$500,000. The new furnaces are significantly better than the old ones.
- Are the reserve funds being invested, and is there income from them? Yes, they are in an interest-bearing account, and it generated approximately \$18,000 of interest last year.

Following this review, Mark asked for a voice vote to approve the 2024 budget, which passed.

Election results returned with all the nominations approved.

Pastor Angie closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sherman, Church Council Secretary