

## **The 2022 Annual Meeting**

*Celebrating the Life & Mission of God among the People of Immanuel Lutheran Church*

Crosby, Minnesota

February 13, 2022

### **Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

- Deb Koop, council president, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.
- With 79 members in attendance, a quorum was confirmed. (*minimum 54 needed*)
- Pastor Paul opened with prayer.
- Reading of the Vision and Mission Statement

#### **Questions & Comments on Reports from Ministry Teams and Leaders**

- Regarding Immanuel's donations to the Malawi Orphan Care Project (pg. 38), Nancy Evans noted that \$40,000 had been given by Immanuel to the "Rescue Center," and she asked what that was. Pastor Paul responded that it is a safe place for girls to go if they need to get out of bad marriages. Most of that amount was a gift directed from a former member's estate. Immanuel continues to focus most of its efforts on feeding and education.
- Deb Koop commented that she continues to be impressed with the high level of activity throughout our church as evidenced by the many summaries included in the annual report.

#### **Questions & Comments on Pastor's Report**

- No questions arose, but Deb Koop asked that the congregation prayerfully consider Pastor's recommendation to add a Family Ministry Coordinator position to our staff.

#### **Congregational Business**

1. *Vote to accept past minutes.*

A motion to accept the minutes from the February 2021 Annual Meeting was made by John Klopfleisch, seconded by Terri Wisniak, and was passed unanimously.

2. *Approval of 2022 Budget.*

A motion to accept the proposed Mission Investment Plan (budget) for 2022 as it appears on pages 41-42 of the financial section of the annual report was made by Jim Stolle, seconded by John Klopfleisch, and was passed unanimously.

3. *Approval of 2022 Benevolence plan.*

Jim Stolle moved to approve the plan for 2022 benevolence disbursements of \$10,000 as shown on page 9 of the financial section of the annual report with council discretion to modify amounts

to recipients as they deem appropriate. Deb Eatros seconded. Bob Neros questioned if \$10,000 is the equivalent of tithing on the part of the church. Pastor Paul responded that the money given by our church through its many missions (Malawi, Women of the Word, Meal with a Mission, Good Sam, scholarships, etc) meets tithing criteria. The benevolence schedule is a small part of total giving. David Pundt pointed out that page 9 of the financial section of the annual report shows the benevolence plan for 2021. Deb Koop clarified that the plan remains the same for 2022.

The motion to approve the 2022 benevolence plan passed unanimously.

4. *Election of new council members.*

Pastor Paul announced the names given to him by the nominating committee. David Pundt and Jerry DeCent will serve their first 3-year terms on the church council. Deb Koop agreed to retain her seat for a second term. These nominees were elected by acclamation.

5. *Installation of officers and new council members.*

Pastor Paul installed the 2022 officers of the council: Deb Koop, president; Tom Nixon, vice-president; Nancy Evans, secretary, and new council members as listed above. Thanks went out to retiring council members Dan Wisniak, 6 years, and Jim Patrick, 3 years.

6. *Election of Nominating Committee for 2022.*

John Klopfleisch moved that Ginny Larson, Bob Neros, and John Klopfleisch be named to the nominating committee. Jim Patrick seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. *Election of delegates for the LCMC Annual Gathering.*

A motion to send Pastor Paul and John Klopfleisch to the LCMC Annual Gathering, October 2-5, 2022, in Lakeville, MN, was made by Dan Wisniak, seconded by Deb Koop. Motion carried unanimously.

8. *Discussion of children and youth ministry staff position(s).*

Judi Burson noted that this discussion actually started years ago when she was on council and the number of children attending church was declining. Church leaders felt it was important to focus on increasing those numbers because the children are the future of the church. Judi emphasized that it is important to have someone consistent who children and youth can come to and confide in in time of trouble.

Pastor Paul reminded us that this discussion came up again at the Youth Summit a few years ago, and the congregation voted to make children and youth a priority in our church. Faith Webbing, where congregation members of all ages build a web of relationships around kids, was introduced as one way to better serve our children. At that same time, we created the children's and youth coordinator positions within the church staff.

Jill DeCent, who served as the children's coordinator for a year, said the proposal to combine both these coordinator positions into one Family Ministry position sounded advisable, but that we would likely need to entice someone with full-time hours and benefits. Having a trained professional in the position would be a huge support to growing our family ministry. Covid really knocked us back, so we need to entice families to attend once again.

Pastor explained that the Family Ministry Coordinator would likely oversee programs for our children and youth, but that our volunteers would still deliver much of the face-to-face instruction.

Tom Nixon stated that as a parent, he has come to realize that families need help from someone with the dedication and time to motivate and educate their children in the faith.

Peter Nordell, a volunteer with the youth on Wednesday nights, pointed out that some teens who are coming are not members of our church, and they have no previous education in Christianity, and they are coming to be with friends or because they are curious. He said it's very exciting to work with them, but we would greatly benefit from having a trained professional to guide the volunteers.

Pat Neros asked if "Family Ministry Coordinator" was an understandable title as we seek someone to fill it.

Pastor Paul pointed out that we do not need to finalize anything today, but that he's hoping the congregation will allow him to investigate what other churches do to fill these responsibilities and what it would take to bring a trained professional to Immanuel.

Nancy Evans asked how Pastor could share what he learns – by communicating with a dedicated team, or through the church council, or through newsletters to the entire congregation. Jill DeCent thought it would be good to form a dedicated team. Terri Wisniak pointed out there is already a youth advisory team. Pastor thought he could form a new committee of interested members to bounce ideas with, and he invited anyone to contact him if they might be interested. Deb Koop suggested this committee might include representatives of the children and youth advisory teams, parents of our children, and maybe a council member.

Bob Neros moved that Pastor Paul should begin researching a possible role and qualifications of a new "Family Ministry Coordinator" position. Elaine Karel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Celebrating the Joys of Immanuel**

- All of the youth who are attending on Wednesdays. [Terri Wisniak]
- After two tough years working around Covid restrictions, this meeting is a joy! [Bob Neros]
- Influx of new members. Blessed with great office staff. [Pastor Paul]
- Growing Sunday school attendance. [Marian Segersten]
- Growth of our youth program on Wednesday nights, involving our members' children and outside guests, and guiding them as they grow in faith. [Jill Mattson]
- Last year, our finance team was struggling to make the budget work, but through prayer, we as a church made it work. [John Klopfleisch]
- Women of the congregation are to be commended for their fundraising efforts through the Christmas bazaar. Their hard work results in thousands of dollars that goes to the needy in our community as well as a few global missions. Thank you, too, to the men who support this effort. [Ginny Larson]

## Closing

- Closing prayer led by Pastor Paul.
- At 12:32 p.m., Peter Nordell moved, seconded by David Pundt, to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Evans, council secretary