

Mount Cross Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 29, 2017

Having been determined that a quorum of voting members was in attendance, the meeting was called to order in the sanctuary at 4:10 by President Norm Presecan.

Pastor John opened the meeting with a prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting with one correction--the church council made a motion to approve the recommended 2016 budget not the 2014 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

CYFM Director's report: Meredith Gardner reported that she started her position at Mt. Cross 2 years ago today and she is proud of all the programs that have been started in that time and the growth in the programs that were already here when she arrived. She is also proud of the relationships she has seen being built and growing over the last 2 years.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor John started his report by recognizing that this is Mt. Cross Lutheran Church's 51st year and sharing some other important #51's. He lifted up the quote from Martin Luther, "Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace so sure and certain that we can stake our lives on it a thousand times." In honor of the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation, his word for Mt. Cross this year will be "reform".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Norm Presecan started his report by reviewing the 2 goals he had set for the year. The first was to bring our 2 new staff positions into a balanced regular budget and not rely on special funding for those positions. He was happy to report that goal was met with the budget that will be presented for the congregation to vote on. His second goal was to complete the patio project. While that goal has not been met, progress has been made on the project and it continues to move forward. In conclusion, he gave acknowledgement to all the 2016 council officers and members and presented the departing council members with certificates.

TREASURE'S REPORT--- Treasurer Keith Selbrede reported that during the past year the church switched from using Quick Books to using the online version of Quick Books. It took some getting used to but is being used now and running smoothly. He briefly reviewed the financial situation of the church. Over the last 2 years the church has had a downward trend in their assets because there has not been as much income coming into the church. The endowment fund assets were back in the positive column this year. The reserve account has grown but is still not at the suggested ELCA recommendation of 20%. The mortgage is being paid on schedule. There were no questions or discussion regarding the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED 2017 BUDGET: Keith Selbrede presented the recommended 2017 budget to the congregation. The total budget is a 14.3% increase over last year's budget—largely due to funds being added in for the patio project. The operating income is an increase of \$33,000 over last year due to an 8.4% increase in pledges. The recommended budget is a balanced budget and does not rely on any funds from the reserve account to pay for the 2 new staff positions. The 2017 budget maintains all the existing programs and staff positions. It includes the usual 1% increase in giving to Mission Support & Benevolence and a 2% cost of living increase for all regular staff members. The budget also includes \$76,500 (the balance of the “special funds” money) for the patio project.

Several questions were asked regarding the budget.

- The budget shows total payments for the mortgage in the amount of \$14,300 but that is designated for interest payments. There is nothing in the budget for the approximately \$14,000 to pay the principle portion of the budget. It was noted that this is how the budget has been written for the past several years, but there were still concerns about the additional \$14,000 being accounted for and if the budget is in fact balanced if that money is not factored into the budget. There were no immediate answers to any of questions and concerns so the council will investigate this further.
- Concern was voiced over the naming of the “patio project” instead of referring to it as a “special project”. Since no final plans and costs have been presented to the special projects committee there has been no final determination that the patio will be the project chosen to move forward with.
- There was confusion over why the budget has a line item for the Lutheran Magazine when the subscription was not funded in last year's budget and the subscription was cancelled. The current line item is for a subscription of 20 magazines that will be delivered to the church to be given out to new members, visitors...
- There was concern raised about the amount of money in the budget for continuing education for the CYFM Director position and whether that amount (\$750.00) was enough to provide sufficient opportunities for growth so Meredith is better able to serve the church. It was noted that this is the amount that was requested by Meredith herself for continuing education. This also led to a discussion on the salary for the CYFM Director and the adjustment made by the church council to the salary in December of 2016. There was some confusion as to why the adjustment was made in December and if it was to correct for not having paid enough throughout the year to this position, was the correction retroactive back to the entire year and were the effects of the salary increase also factored into the other benefits for the CYFM Director position?
- The Make Bake Celebrate Committee would not like to have a dollar amount for their event listed in the budget, even though it is shown to be a goal only and not a set upon amount.

It was moved and seconded to approve the recommended 2017 budget amended to add \$14,471 for principle mortgage payments to be covered by the reserve fund if necessary. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to investigate and rectify with a budget amendment the 2015-2016 salary amount to the contracted salary amount for the CYFM Director position. The motion passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017

A printed ballot was provided to each member in attendance at the meeting. As each slate of officers was announced a call was made for further nominations to the slate. There were no further nominations to any of the offices and it was moved and seconded to close the ballot. According to the church by-laws, if there are not more candidates for any of the offices than nominees, the ballot may be approved by acclimation however, a request was made for a written ballot so ballots were collected and counted. Sixty-eight ballots were received and counted.

Those voted into office were:

- **Nomination Committee**
Rick Gardner
Bev Rueckert
Anne Valencia
John Colby
Barbara Burke
- **Voting Members to Synod Assembly**
Bob Brickley
LaJean Wenzel
Gail Baird
- **Mediation Board**
Nils Rueckert
Dmitry Altshuller
Becky Riley
- **Endowment Committee**
Barbara Sletten
Rick Gardner
Chelle Smith
- **Church Council**
Cecelia Travick-Jackson
Brian Edwards
Stan Patscheck
Norman Williamsen
Mike Laskey
Denise Sobolik

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business on the agenda and none was brought forward from the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Amendments to the Mount Cross Constitution**---Pastor John gave brief explanation on the background of the changes being requested by the ELCA to congregational constitutions. There have also been handouts available for review and links on the website regarding the proposed changes. The changes proposed deal mainly with new position titles adopted by the ELCA. It was moved and seconded to amend the Mount Cross Lutheran Church constitution as proposed. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

- **Update on the Patio Project:** Stan Patscheck gave the congregation an update on the progress of the patio project. The plans are currently with the city planning department waiting for approval. So far, approximately \$8,000.00 has been spent on the project for structural and engineering designs and fees. Once the plans are back from the city the church will decide if there is enough money in the special projects fund to move forward with all that is proposed for the project. There is currently no action required by the congregation for the project.

There being no more business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

Pastor John closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the Parish Life Center for a potluck dinner.

A full copy of the 2017 Annual Report can be seen online at
http://www.mountcross.com/uploads/1/5/9/5/15953620/2016_annual_report.pdf

Respectfully submitted by Denise Sobolik, Recorder