

Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, February 14, 2016

Call to order at 11.30am. by the President Karen Gastmeier.

It was confirmed that a quorum was present with 72 people in attendance. { Quorum – 37 }

Pastor Philip opened with prayer, thanking God for the Goodness and Faithfulness of all in the past year and asking that they continue in the coming year.

Adoption of the Agenda -

The Chair moved the Bylaw changes and the Election of Council Members to the last two items on the Agenda.

Motion to adopt the Agenda as changed. M/S/C.

Minutes of the 2015 Congregational Meetings -

Motion to approve the minutes as printed. M/S/C.

President's Report -

Karen mentioned some of the happenings at Mount Zion in 2015.

Some of those were - a fond farewell to Parish Nurse Betty Behm; the calling of a Deacon; celebrating the ministry of Open Sesame; hosting an ordination and the installation of the Dean of the Seminary; renovating a house and BALANCING THE BUDGET.

She reported some significant things have happened in 2016 – 237 Dawson Street is rented: the new Parish Nurse starts on Feb. 16th. and the last Saturday of January, many members of the congregation met to set two significant goals to be accomplished in 2016.

Karen thanked all the volunteers, the Council, the Health Council, the staff, Richard Brubacher, who became the Treasurer and her husband , Bill for his support, during this eventful year.

Pastor and Deacon Reports -

Pastor Philip added to his report that he had been at Mount Zion for two years, two months, two weeks and thanked everyone for the love and support that had been shown to him.

Deacon Scott thanked everyone for walking with him through his journey.

Ministry Reports -

There were no questions for -

Worship, Learning, Service and Stewardship.

Prayer Vine, Communication, Community Gardens and Health Council.

Mutual Ministry, Property, Ushers, Sunday Morning Greeters and Church Library.

Open Sesame was a verbal report from Carol Ziegler -

Open Sesame now comes under the Ontario Board of Education. Each teacher and volunteer is required to have a First Aid Course. There has been a shortage of volunteers this past year but due to an article by Pauline Finch in the Chronicle, a volunteer has stepped forward. There might be two teachers in the future. There could be a subsidy from the Region provided a nominal fee be charged. Support is also needed from the Congregation and Benevolence.

No questions on the Open Sesame Financial Report.

Motion to accept all Committee Reports. M/S/C.

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Financial Reports and Proposed Budget prepared by Richard Brubacher -

Richard thanked the Finance Committee of Tim Ehrlich, who replaced Hank Bax, Bob McDermott, Anne Crossman and Council Liaison Rita Schaus.

Richard reported that a Financial Review had been completed by Jackie Nunns and Rita Schaus and that no abnormalities had been found.

Motion that the Financial Review report be accepted. M/S/C.

Richard said the year had begun with concern but ended with a surplus of \$11,198.00

Benevolence increased by 6.9%

A special donation of public traded securities of \$6890. started a Deficit Reduction Response and with further donations, the fund now totals \$9865.

Another member donated stock equivalent to three years of donations, upfront, reducing the finance costs for the renovations of 237 Dawson Street. The renovation costs must still be paid back.

Memorial Funds of \$11,000. were contributed as well as a bequest of \$10,000. to the Mission Endowment Fund.

The 2016 proposed budget shows a deficit in the Current Account of \$12,315.

Capital Account expenses include -

Lighting Panel and Sound System update in the Sanctuary - \$14,000.

Organ Repairs - \$ 5,000 to \$8,000

Auditorium Refresh - \$5,000.

Question from Margaret Waechter – Several years ago, was here not a motion to set up a Special Fund to refurbish the organ every ten years?

Richard answered - “ Not to my knowledge”.

Motion to approve the 2016 budget M/S/C.

Motion - the Finance Committee appoint three people to audit the 2016 Financial Reports. M/S/C.

Covenant with The Synod -

Karen gave some background on The Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod Church Council is recommending that we become a signatory to the covenant with the following motion -

That the Congregational Council and Officers are authorized to sign the “Covenant Concerning the Life and Ministry of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC” on behalf of Mount Zion, Waterloo. M/S/C.

Judi Harris made the comment that there was nothing different than we were already doing.

Bylaw Changes -

Alfred Brunger had a Power-Point presentation on the process to change Bylaws and the Bylaws that have been approved by Council for change.

To change Bylaws -

Council must approve the changes.

The Bylaws are submitted to Synod for approval.

If Synod Council approves, they are returned for approval by the Congregation.

If Synod Council does not approve, they are returned, with guide lines for how they should read.

Revisions are made and the Bylaws are again submitted to Synod.

When the Bylaws have all been approved by Synod Council, they are presented to the Congregation at a duly called Congregational Meeting, for approval and if approved become law.

Synod Council meets in April.

Bylaws that have been submitted for change are -

Bylaw #1 Clause 5.3

Bylaw #1 Section 9.1

Page 3,

Bylaw #1 Section 9.9

Bylaw #2 Clause 1d.

Election of Council Members – Karen

There are four vacancies on Council. There is one person standing for election – Alfred Brunger.

Question – Are there any nominations from the floor? Hearing none -

Motion – nominations be closed. M/S/C.

Motion – Alfred Brunger be elected to Church Council. M/S/C.

Judi Harris reported that the committee formed for refugee sponsorship is calling itself the “Ecumenical Committee” and consists of four churches, Our Lady of Lourdes, Good Sheppard, St. Stephens and Mount Zion.

Karen thanked the outgoing members of Council, Pauline Finch and Robb Wilson, for their work on council and told them that they had made a difference.

Karen was thanked for her excellent leadership and guidance over the past year, by Rita Schaus.

Karen thanked everyone for attending and all the good work that is done and added “ May God continue to bless you and all that you do in his service”.

Motion to adjourn at 12.40pm. M/S/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Schaus,

Secretary.