

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2021

St. Peter's Mission Statement: Believe, Belong, Become

*To express God's love and grace in building a community where people **believe** in God, **belong** to Christ, and **become** disciples who serve in day to day living.*

Meeting called to order by President Steve Hill at 10:03am

Agenda – additions to today's agenda: update to bylaws to allow virtual meetings and Peter Scheffert to give report about the Northfield Retirement Center; motion to approve the agenda made by Ginny Paulson, seconded by Sheryl Kleppe, motion carried.

Devotion was led by Pastor David Weeks. The devotion opened with a parable from Matthews 7. All meeting participants read the litany on page 4 of the 2020 annual report.

Minutes – motion to approve the 2020 minutes made by Pete Pedersen, seconded by Dennis Hahn, motion carried.

Message by President Steve Hill

- Thank you to Claire Hill and Amy Sillanpa for their work on their council. Their terms are ending.
- Thank you to the St. Peters staff (Pastor David Weeks, Julie Klock, Mary Kay Bougie, Terra Wierson, & Dennis McClinock) for all their dedication and work this year. 2020 was different than any other year with the pandemic and they have all gone above and beyond this year. The St. Peter's staff have done a great job and we truly appreciate them all.
- Thank you to everyone involved in the transformation of the parsonage to Sarah's House. Thank you to Bette Lee and Sheryl Kleppe for taking the lead with coordinating. Thank you to Tom Picha, Phil Olson, and many more for the work they did on the building.
- Thank you to the congregation for keeping St. Peter's in your hearts during this difficult time of the pandemic.

Message by Pastor David Weeks

- Pastor David shared gratitude for the St. Peter's staff and council. They helped keep things going while he was on sabbatical. Thank you to Claire Hill and Amy Sillanpa for their time on their council.
- While reading the annual report, in light of a challenging year, Pastor David reflected on the many things we continue to do at St. Peter's. Even though we've been shut down in the physical sense, we never closed and have continued our ministry. We continue to give to the greater community and serve many people.
- Thank you for the opportunity to go on sabbatical. Many great memories and a meaningful trip.
- We will work on a transition back to in-person worship using safety protocols. Starting February 17, Ash Wednesday, we will start offering in-person worship with a limited number, sign-up in advance, limit to 30, mask wearing, and won't sing as a congregation, etc.

Ministry Team/Board Reports

- Peter Scheffert gave an update about the Northfield Retirement Community (NRC) – Scheffert serves on that board, representing St. Peter’s Church. Thank you to St. Peter’s for being a great supporter of NRC over the years. Given the pandemic, they are doing okay. A small outbreak in one living area and a handful of staff have gotten COVID. Everyone is tested twice a week and other ongoing protocol to keep people safe. As the year finished, occupancy is down a bit due to the difficulties of bringing in new people during the pandemic. Vaccinations are happening in the assisted living. Financially they are doing okay – but a little stressed due to occupancy being down. Government financial support has helped. Kyle Nordine, President/CEO of NRC, has announced his retirement for July 1, 2021. They are in the process of hiring a new CEO to start July 1. Peter’s term is up this year as representative from St. Peter’s; if a St. Peter’s member is interested in joining their board, let Peter Scheffert and Steve Hill know.
- No other team/board reports

Elections

- The terms of Claire Hill, Member at Large, and Amy Sillanpa, Secretary, have ended.
- On the ballot:
 - Church Council positions
 - 1 Member at Large position (2 year term) - Mary Bleckwehl; no other nominations
 - Secretary (2 year term) – Jolene Manzey; no other nominations
 - Congregational Life Committee: Bryn Bridley
- Motion made to pass a unanimous ballot by Claire Hill, seconded by Ginny Paulson, motion carried.

Financial Report – 2020 Budget – by Tom Picha, Treasurer

- Treasurer report is on page 18 of the 2020 annual report.
- 2020 financial summary on page 20 of the 2020 annual report.
- For 2020 the church ended the year with a \$25.6K surplus. We received a Payroll Protection Plan grant/loan due to the pandemic. Without the PPP loan we would have had a 27.8K deficit.
- Expenses were reduced with less people utilizing the church due to the pandemic.
- Page 20 of the annual report has the proposed budget for 2021. Picha made a motion to approve the proposed 2021 budget level of expense of \$387,221. Combined with a planned income of \$375,102, this will result in a planned deficit of \$12119. Ginny Paulson seconded; motion carried.

Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- **Addition to the bylaws:** language proposed to add to Chapter 10 of our bylaws

- o SE MN Synod is recommending that congregations having virtual annual meetings update their bylaws for that purpose. The council passed a continuing resolution at the December council meeting, which allowed us to have our virtual annual meeting. They suggest the following motion:
 - To adopt the following continuing resolution, C10.08.A20 “This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically to this congregation’s by-laws.”
- o Motion to approve the resolution was made by Brad Anderson and seconded by Pete Pedersen; motion carried.
- **Support of Habitat for Humanity:** Donna Rae Scheffert thanked St. Peter’s for all their support of Habitat for Humanity and announced two new builds in Northfield starting soon.
- Pastor David thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting.

Motion made to adjourn by Janie Anderson, seconded Ginny Paulson; motion carried and the Annual Meeting adjourned at 10:57am.

Minutes by Amy Sillanpa, Church Council Secretary