

Congregational Meeting Minutes: November 2021 (as approved 11-1-2022)

Date: Sunday, November 14, 2021
Time: 12:15 PM
Place: Yankee Hill campus

Purpose: Annual meeting to provide updates to the membership and conduct business.

Participants: indicates attendance

LLB Members: Tom Lorenz (Chair), Vacant (Vice-Chair), Rick Stowell (Secretary), Kyle Kaldahl (Treasurer, NV)
 Chris Cox, Heidi Cuca, Jud Jesske, Jeff Lake, Gary Pickering, Kristy Plander, Shayla Reed

Invited staff / presenters: Pastor Echelkamp (Director of Ministries)
Ken Hobza (Director of Finance)
Josiah Janke (Coordinator of Communication)

Congregational members signed in for voting purposes.

Desired Outcomes of the meeting:

- Members are updated on major ministry efforts, financial status, new debt policy, and congregational survey.
- Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws are approved

Agenda

Call to order Chair Tom Lorenz called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Business Item:	Purpose: Inform/Discuss/Decide	Notes provided prior to meeting	Duration
1. Financial report	Update on finances, current debt, and procedural review		25 minutes

Discussion:

Procedural review: Ken Hobza highlighted the ongoing work with the Harger Group, the firm selected to perform the review. The review will look at internal controls, accounts payable & receipts, payroll, and books conversion.

Financial report: Kyle Kaldahl reported that we are +\$50k through the first three months (giving is up \$33k, spending is down \$17k). A goal is to address the original gap (~\$150k) in the annual budget through increased giving.

Debt: Kyle highlighted a new internal policy guiding LLB and CL administration's consideration of taking on new debt.

Present: Debt-to-income ratio is no more than 40%

Future: Have 50% cash on hand

Past: Loan-to-value ratio is below 60%

As an additional measure, LLB will consider our 6-month net position (cash flow), which should prove positive.

Responding to a question about whether this was binding policy, Kyle said no, since the congregation holds the final authority to approve taking on debt [new loans].

Tom highlighted our near-term pursuit of low-interest loans for the YH building loan and restructured existing debt. He also noted that the debt policy prioritizes paying off older loans first.

Decisions/Recommendations: No actions taken.

2. Congregational ministry update	Inform members on ministry efforts		20 minutes
<p>Discussion: Pastor Eckelkamp communicated his priorities as Director of Ministries during these initial months at CL, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His vision about how the LLB and DoM are to function together with proper authority and accountability. • How he recognizes the need to address debt & fiscal management while advancing ministry. • That he’s assessing how the structure of staff and ministry can be better organized to have our congregation operate and move forward with a culture that models Christianity to others. • How we should communicate to function with optimal transparency and trust. <p>Responding to a question about what we should expect over the next 6-12 months, Pastor E. said he’ll assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are we living out our vision? - What are our values and how can we operate more effectively and in better alignment with those values? 			
<p>Decisions/Recommendations: No actions taken.</p>			
3. Constitution & Bylaws	Decide on proposed changes		25 minutes
<p>Discussion: Tom introduced the following proposed changes to the congregation for consideration:</p> <p><u>Constitutional change:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 9 – Change our Registered Agent for CLC from Rev. Dr. Luke Schnake to Rev. Dr. Michael Eckelkamp. Allan Liermann moved (Heidi Cucca 2nd) to approve this change in Registered Agent. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent. <p><u>Bylaws changes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article II 1. – Modify the schedule for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held prior to the end of November rather than by November 15th of each year. No action was taken; check wording. • Article II 3. – Enumerate a quorum as at least 25 voting members being present. Allan Liermann moved (Jud Jesske 2nd) to approve this amendment requiring that at least 25 members be present for conducting official actions and votes. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent. • Article V 3. – Allow LLB members to serve up to two consecutive terms. After a couple of clarifications of the wording, Don Knop moved (Allan Liermann 2nd) to approve this amendment allowing LLB members to serve up to two consecutive terms. Motion carried by voice vote without dissent. • Article V 4. – Change medium for publishing notice of LLB regular meetings from the bulletin to the church e-News and website; and the advance notice from 2 Sundays to 10 days prior to the meetings; with minutes being “made available” instead of “reported” to the congregation. No action was taken; needs significant attention to the wording that was presented relative to that which is desired. How will special meetings of the LLB be adequately publicized if only 3 days of notice is required? How will notice be provided to members who don’t have access to or utilize the Internet? 			
<p>Decisions/Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved amending Article 9 of Constitution to change our Registered Agent for CLC from Rev. Dr. Luke Schnake to Rev. Dr. Michael Eckelkamp. <i>{Note: This change was not implemented as not all procedural steps required for constitutional changes were followed; was subsequently deferred for consideration in 2022.}</i> • Approved amending Article II (sec. 3) of the Bylaws to enumerate a quorum as at least 25 voting members. • Approved amending Article V (sec. 3) of the Bylaws to allow LLB members to serve up to two consecutive terms. 			

4. Congregational survey	Inform on preliminary findings		10 minutes
<p>Discussion: Josiah Janke reported initial results from the survey.</p> <p>Alignment with vision of the church was a little lower than last time but remains high. Interest was expressed for more bible studies and further development of children’s ministries. Josiah responded to a question relative to commitment to childcare/children’s ministries at the Yankee Hill campus that these programs have been sustained at YH through Covid and we are committed to continue and grow these ministries.</p>			
<p>Decisions/Recommendations: No actions taken</p>			
<p>Note: Due to time constraints, two annual meeting business items were set aside for action at the next congregational meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of 2020 annual meeting minutes • Elections of LLB members and officers. During the earlier discussion of terms of office, Chair Lorenz introduced a proposal that the current members be retained for an additional year – due to the demands and constraints of Covid, the DoM search, etc. Under the amended Bylaws, members are not constrained to 3 years of elected service on LLB. Tom later determined that, given the uncertainties about implications of the proposed action, LLB should consider elections further and no request for action was extended on the proposal. 			
<p>Adjournment: Pastor E. gave a closing prayer and Tom adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.</p>			