

**Perry Highway Lutheran Church (PHLC)  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2024**

**Call to order at 10:41am by Wendy Rychel**

**Attendance**

- 35 members (see attached attendance roster)

**Motion to approve agenda**

- 1st - Mary Binder
- 2nd - Jannette Travali
- In Favor- 35
- Opposed - 0

**Presentation of Annual Reports**

**Pastors Report - Ryan Pusch**

- Ryan provided a brief recap on the year at PHLC
- He gave thanks to everyone in the congregation and to all of the committees
- There were no questions

**Pre-K Report - Lulu Searles**

- Working on several facility upgrades largely focused on security and cosmetic issues
- Enrollment is looking good for this year so far
- Several fundraisers are ongoing
- Pre-K Sunday scheduled for Feb 4, 2024
- Pastor and pre-K met regularly this year which has improved communication

**Financial Report - Hans Ward**

- Overall it was a good year for business
- We did end the year in a deficit
- 10% more giving this year
- Pay a bill helped a lot
- Still burdened from paying off the small business loan
- We had many facility upgrades from property grant
- In-kind donations were very large, ~50k
- We are proposing a deficit budget again for next year
  - This emphasizes the need to continue to grow
- Personnel costs in particular are going up each year
- We could operate for 3 more years without growth given our current savings
- Questions
  - Chuck Zehnder - Does the insurance include liability coverage?
    - Answered by Hans Ward - yes
  - Chuck Zehnder - Why are there months with high payrolls?
    - Answered by Wendy – Payroll is run three times in those months instead of twice during the other months

## Voting Items

### **Agency of the year**

- Proposal of Lutherlyn camp made and approved by council
- Ryan provided background of the organization
- Wendy Rychel noted that all second mile giving for the year would go to Lutherlyn
- Council makes a motion to approve Lutherlyn as agency of year
  - Discussion -
    - Jannette Hanchak - Should social outreach committee make specific fundraisers for this organization?
      - Answered by Wendy Rychel - We usually don't do this but we could explore it if there is interest
    - Bridgette Struble - who would be in charge of organizing volunteers?
      - Answered by Ryan Pusch - Lutherlyn announces their needed online and in a newsletter
      - Answered by Fred Geiger - We will put these needs on our social and website
    - Gloria Stultz - Are we planning to organize other donations for Lutherlyn just as material goods?
      - Answered by Wendy Rychel - We typically have not but we can if we want
  - Congregational vote
    - No 1st or 2nd necessary as council has approved and made the motion.
    - In favor - 35
    - Opposed - 0

### **Endowment fund resolution - Bob Jack**

- Bob Jack provided history and purpose of endowment
  - Original purpose of the first fund was to cover property/maintenance costs
  - The church made more over the years for other things like youth, etc. , but they have historically not been used.
- Description of changes to the endowment fund was given by Bob Jack
  - Reduce the number of funds from 6 to 1
  - Reduce required members on the endowment committee from 5 to 3
- Discussion
  - Chuck - Is the language about "the church" defined in the documentation correctly?
    - Answered by Bob Jack - No, it is correct on page 30
  - Chuck - Why is there no mention of money given for emergencies?
    - Answered by Bob Jack - It is explained on page 35
- Council moves that congregation approves the proposed changes to the endowment fund
  - Congregational vote
    - No 1st or 2nd necessary as council has approved and made the motion.
    - In favor - 35
    - Opposed - 0

### **2024 Budget - Hans Ward**

- Hans Ward gave overview of the budget vision and creation process
  - The budget went through several iterations with an overall goal of cost reduction
- Discussion
  - None
- Council moves to approve the 2024 budget as written
  - Congregational vote

- In favor - 34 (one member out of room)
- Opposed - 0

### **Remaining Business**

#### **Election of nominating committee - Wendy Rychel**

- Three members are needed for this committee
- Volunteers:
  - Pat Bolster
  - Chuck Zehnder
  - Mike Coxon
- No voting necessary

#### **Council President Message - Wendy Rychel**

- Provided a heart-felt statement to remember and honor Judy Weber in her passing this year
- Announced 2024 council and executive committee
- Urged congregation to volunteer and attend church events
  - A little bit goes a long way

#### **Meeting closed with prayer from Pastor Ryan**

#### **Motion to adjourn**

- 1st - Ron Bolster
- 2nd - Sue Gaertner
- Congregational vote
  - In favor - 35
  - Opposed - 0

#### **Meeting adjourned at 11:39am by Wendy Rychel**