

**New Spirit Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
December 11, 2011**

Meeting called to order:

Brigitte Stuetze, Vision Team President, called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. Brigitte opened the meeting with prayer.

Agenda:

1. Approve December 2009 and December 2010 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
2. Elections of several Vision Team and Endowment Board positions – individuals under consideration for election:
 - Election of Vision Team President – Tom Bartels
 - Election of Vision Team Vice President – Jim Brumm
 - Election of Vision Team Secretary – Amber Uidenich
 - Election of 4 members-at-large to the Vision Team (2 will serve 3yr term and 1 will serve 2yr term)
 - Gerri Sjoland
 - Edna Walton
 - Eric Ryan
 - Phyllis Wagner
 - Marilyn Roberts
 - Election of two Endowment Board Members
 - Don Austin
 - Cindy Ryan
 - Paul Walton
 - Kathy Vaclavek
 - Marlene Junge
 - Carol Lower
 - Terry Wolfe
3. Vote on proposed Mission Plan for 2012
4. Appoint Audit Committee

Approval of Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from December 2010 and December 2011: Motion made and accepted to approve both 2009 and 2010 annual meeting minutes.

Election of Vision Team and Endowment Board Members:

Brigitte thanked the outgoing vision team members who also serve as the nominating committee (Paul Stuetze, Robin Hughes and Barb Carty). Brigitte introduced members under consideration for Vision and Endowment Board positions. Members present stood to be recognized. Brigitte called for additional nominations from the floor which there was none proposed. Ballots had been distributed when members of the church signed in for the meeting. 57 voting members out of 213 were present at today's annual meeting. Congregational members, eligible to vote, were asked to mark ballots and to pass ballots to end of pews. The ballots were collected and given to the counters for tabulation. The counters were Paul Stuetze, Robin Hughes, Barb Carty and Sandy Johnson. While ballots were being counted, the next item on agenda was introduced.

Proposed Venture Mission Plan:

Brigitte introduced Terry Mysak, Vision Team Treasurer, and thanked him for his service. Terry presented the budget and asked for questions for clarification. A copy of the proposed budget was distributed to members at the door after they signed in for the meeting.

Several questions asked and answered pertaining to proposed budget:

- Terry announced that there was a typo in the handout of the budget – see 5005 Benevolence line. This line is just a header and the figures to the right should each be moved down one line.
- Question asked if we were keeping up with our benevolence. Terry replied that we have kept up with benevolence, mortgage payments and utilities all year.
- Question as to why we are supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry and SALCA (Southern Arizona Lutheran Camping Association) out of proposed budget. Stated that this is being supported through our endowments as we gave \$3,600 to Lutheran Campus Ministry and \$4,000 to SALCA already this year. Pastor answered that he is currently the President of SALCA and years ago all Synod churches supported SALCA through operating budgets. The endowment money goes to support camper scholarships and not the association itself. By adding a nominal amount in the operating budget it allows members to participate in the support of this association.
- Question as to why Secretary salaries is being proposed lower for this year. Terry and Brigitte explained that in talking with Tracy she expressed a desire to try “contract” or “temp” employment rather than hiring permanent secretary at the moment. Terry also explained that there is an option to use University of Arizona interns to assist Tracy as well. It was mentioned that Tuesday and Thursday’s are the busiest days for the office due to ICS and Food Bank being open. Several members are coming in on these days to volunteer assisting Tracy by answering the phone. If this overall arrangement does not work out discussion of part-time permanent secretary will again be discussed.
- Terry mentioned that the church is already on “budget billing” for our utilities and we have already been told that our utility costs will be going up starting in the new year which is why there is an increase in the 5300 lines.
- Terry mentioned that the capital improvement line (5420) was lowered due to conversation to no longer buy extra insurance policy for the roof. All lines with two asterisks next to them means that the money goes directly into a saving account and sits there until it is needed for designated purpose.
- Three members asked when the parking lots will be repaved. Pastor Alan said that the proposal is \$50,000 to repave both parking lots. We currently have \$5,000 set aside for this project. Several members are concerned for the safety of elderly individuals. It was asked if we could do something like was done when we paid for the tiles in the entry – everyone had an opportunity to purchase square footage for the tile space. Maybe we could purchase individual parking stalls as a way to break the costs down to something more manageable. It was also mentioned that it might be nice to have an on-going list somewhere at the back of the church for individuals who would like to give extra money towards on-going needs. It was also mentioned that we should be able to use Designated or Arivaca funds for the parking lot. One member asked if a sign could be placed as you enter the Spanish Trail parking lot that indicates there is additional parking available from Camino Seco. It was also asked if a sign could be placed at the entrance of the parking lot indicating that there is guest parking by the front of the church. Right now no one knows that there is guest parking available.
- Question as to why it says “think Vegas” on line 5427 Conferences. Brigitte responded that we always send two individuals to the annual Synod conference. While the conference is

generally held in Phoenix, every 5 years the conference is held in Las Vegas. 2012 is the year for Vegas and it will cost more to send two representatives. It was asked why the Arivaca money is not being used for this. Pastor Alan responded that the Arivaca money is used for lodging for retreats. We have always paid for Synod meetings out of our operating budget.

- Terry mentioned that line 5427 Missional Leadership Academy will cost \$2,000 total. We have already paid \$500 and will pay \$1,000 in 2012 and another \$500 in 2013.
- Terry mentioned that line 5429 shows \$0 for last year. While we had Directv last year we were not being charged for it, but the company has now caught the error and we will be charged in 2012.
- Pastor mentioned line 5801 is designated for a Youth director. We are currently using some of this money to pay for Bree who is now working with the youth girls.
- Question asked about line 5807 Generational – what does this mean. Money in this account is used for social fellowship for different age categories such as Gen X, Gen Y, and Boomers etc.
- Question asked who is being paid from line 5907 Musicians and line 5912 Organist. Terry stated that two members of the praise team are paid from line 5907, and the new organist is being paid from line 5912. The organists belong to the American Guild of Organists which provides guidelines for organist salaries depending on education and experience. The salary is based on this guideline. It was asked if we have now permanently hired the new organist. Pastor Alan responded that he is still on probation – one month left of 90 days probation.
- Terry mentioned that the 6003 Library line was reduced because the money set-aside for this year was not spent. Proposed amount is adequate for 2012.
- Terry mentioned that for the past 1 ½ years we have set aside 10% of all unused money each month which goes into the Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund is for times such as summer months when offerings may be lower.
- Question regarding where we are with paying off the church mortgage. Terry responded that we have \$164,546 left to pay, and we have 50 months left on the mortgage.
- Question as to how we work with the difference between income for 2012 estimated at \$297,502 but proposed expenses at \$322,875. Terry and Pastor both responded that this budget is really an expense budget – a guideline to be used throughout the year. If problems arise in terms of the actual budget, the Vision Team will evaluate expenses.
- Question asked regarding actual numbers for 2010 and where we are currently for 2011. Terry responded that in 2010 \$275,000 was spent, and in 2011 \$251,086 has been spent through November 1st this year. This gives you an idea of the difference between proposed expenses and actual expended.
- Terry mentioned that in 2011 95% of pledges are up to date. This is great. For 2012, 82% of families have turned in pledge cards.

Motion was made to accept the mission plan, was seconded and passed by members present.

Election of Vision Team and Endowment Board Members:

The counters brought the results of the elections to Brigitte for reporting to the congregation. The results are as follows:

Vision Team President: 55 votes for Tom Bartels

Vision Team Vice-President: 55 votes for Jim Brumm

Vision Team Secretary: 56 votes for Amber Uidenich

Vision Team Members-at-large: Edna Walton and Eric Ryan were voted in as 3 year members. There was a tie between Marilyn Roberts and Phyllis Wagner for the third member

at large. Everyone voted again to break the tie. Marilyn Roberts was voted in as the third member at large serving for a two year term.

Endowment Board: Don Austin and Paul Walton

Appoint Audit Committee – Bob Daliege will lead an audit team assembled by him.

NOTE: Annual budget over \$300,000 will need professional outside accountant to conduct audit.

Under \$300,000 audit handled internally.

Announcements:

- Pastor thanked Brigitte for serving as Vision Team President this past year.
- Next Sunday, December 18th at 4pm Children’s Program and Holiday Dinner immediately following. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are attending.
- Next Sunday, December 18th at both services 3 of our youth (Marcus Eibl, Tyler Arlig and Chris Arlig) will be affirming their baptism by being confirmed. Pastor pointed out the boys and stated that he asked each of them to attend the annual meeting so that they could see how things work.
- Pastor thanked everyone for attending today’s annual meeting and stated how blessed he feels to be part of this congregation.

Pastor closed the meeting in prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. The meeting ended at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Huff-Eibl
Vision Team Secretary