

# Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2010

## 1. 12:55 Call to Order

Roland Peterson, Chair of the Board of Elders presiding. Current active membership is 176. The required quorum is 40% or 70 members present. There were 106 members who signed in.

## 2. Opening Prayer and Devotional

Pastor Gerald Stigall opened with a devotional based on the Luke 4 account of Jesus in the synagogue. Pastor reminded us of the many ways Grace proclaims the gospel as a church.

## 3. Secretary's Report

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Congregational Meeting were approved by the Board of Elders at their February 10, 2009 meeting. They are included in the 2010 Annual Report.

## 4. Comments on the 2009 Annual Report

- a. Wendell Schaap, Calvin Christian High School Principal, brought greetings. Mr. Schaap reported that the Grace building is feeling like home to both students and faculty. The staff of Grace have been very helpful, and the building has been a wonderful place. Calvin appreciates the large, bright classrooms, the room for staff, and the full-sized gym. The Upper Room has been a fabulous place for chapel. Calvin is projecting an enrollment of 65–70 for next year with a goal of 85 students the following year. Grace has been a key partner.
- b. Roland Peterson, point person for the Opening New Doors capital campaign, gave a summary of the campaign to date. The commitment at the start of the campaign was for \$647,700. As of January 24, \$424,772 has been given. Many structural improvements have been made; nearly \$70,000 has been saved towards the “big switch” of the fellowship hall and the offices. Debt has been reduced by about \$321,000 during the campaign. The youth/young adult position has been funded at \$112,000.

## 5. Recognition of 2009 Nominating Committee

Appreciation was expressed to the members: Paula Blair, Valerie Hubel, Doug Hanson, and Dale Pollesch with ex official members Roland Peterson (chair) and Pastor Gerald Stigall.

## 6. Election

Proposed teller team of Chuck Tomaszewski, Dale Pollesch, and Bruce Millar was MSC unanimously by voice vote. Individuals elected by ballot vote are denoted by \* below. (Note, the results of this election were not available until a few hours after the meeting ended.)

### a. Elders

Dwight Cook\*                      Jim Holmen                      Steve Miller\*                      Bob Spencer\*

### b. Nominating Committee for 2010

Tammy Coleman                      Sue Espeseth\*                      Jere Jacobson\*                      Karla Olsen\*  
Hal Eickstadt\*                      Jeremy Hubel                      Cindi Ledin                      Bruce Pearson

### c. Approval of the Slate of Deacons

Missions — Liz Christie                      Administration — Mike Happ  
Adult Ministries — Karlene (Peanut) Comer

### d. Notice of Ministry Leaders for 2010 (by appointment, no vote required)

Children's Ministry — Pam Olsen\*                      Worship and Creative Arts — Scot Hintermeyer\*  
Connections — Kristel Peters\*                      Youth — Jordan Seiffert\*

## 7. Recognition of Elders Completing Terms

Appreciation was expressed to Jason Blair, Roland Peterson, and Bob Spencer. Pastor Gerald stated that he views the Elder Board as a strength of the church, and that the recent Listening Conferences indicated that the church as a whole agreed with his assessment. Pastor recognized especially the leadership as chair by Roland Peterson. He explained that one meeting of the Elders each month is devoted primarily to prayer, and then he lead the congregation in a prayer of thanks for the Elders.

## **8. Word from the Outgoing Chair**

Roland Peterson described Fridley as a changing town, one that is no longer considered a suburb but a metropolitan area. This change is indicated by the declining population, the limited number of grocery stores, a far greater number of people working than living in Fridley, and the changing demographics. Roland challenged us to be intentional in how we deal with these changes.

## **9. Special Report by the Constitutional Committee**

Mike Stevens, chair of the committee gave a brief presentation. The Elders formed the committee in August of 2008 and asked them to propose revisions to the constitution and by-laws. Their goals were to update the documents to be consistent with the revised EFCA statement of faith, to ensure Grace complies with state statutes, to remove redundancies and clean up the existing documents, and to improve the effectiveness of Grace's governance structure. The next step is to finalize their draft and present it to the Elders for approval. After that, the documents would be presented to the members of Grace for approval, and then if approved, a final vote would occur at the 2011 Annual Congregational Meeting.

## **10. Treasurer's Report**

The report was presented jointly by the Treasurer, Shirley Tunsky, and the Deacon of Administration, Mike Happ. Although there were no questions asked during the meeting, they would be glad to take individual questions later. Approval of the report was MSC unanimously by voice vote.

## **11. Financial Secretary's Report**

Roger Olsen was unavailable to give the report in person. It is printed in the Annual Report. Roland Peterson briefly summarized it. Approval of the report was MSC unanimously by voice vote.

## **12. Proposed 2010 Budget**

Mike Happ explained the proposed budget. He explained that in 2009, the giving to the General Fund came up about \$15,000 short, and that is the fund that basically pays all of the bills. He stressed that the Opening New Doors campaign saved us. For 2010, in addition to giving to the General Fund, there are a few other revenue streams such as Calvin Christian High School rent, a community grant that was renewed for this year, and rental income from the gym. The proposed budget was MSC unanimously by voice vote.

## **13. Senior Pastor Announcements**

- Pastor Gerald has been in contact with the EFCA North Central District youth director and is in the process of obtaining resumes of potential youth workers. He is confident that someone will be in place for either the summer or fall. In the meantime, Jordan Seiffert will continue to lead the youth until summer. Pastor recognized by name the large number of volunteers on the youth team.
- Young adults have been led by the Deimels, who are stepping back. Jason Blair is providing leadership.
- Family Promise is an exciting new challenge for Grace. More than a dozen churches are working together to provide four weeks of housing each, within their church buildings, for homeless families. Grace is planning to do this during the summer months. Funding will be provided by the community grant. Committed volunteers are needed.

## **14. Questions From the Congregation**

- 1) What is the severance package for Pastor Jeff Somerville? Ans: full salary and benefits through April.
- 2) How do the mortgage payments work? Ans: Currently monthly payment is \$7,537.77 per month with about \$2,700 going to principal reduction and \$4,800 to interest. This division changes monthly.

## **15. Elders to Approve Minutes**

Allow Elders to approve these minutes at their next meeting. Suggestion to publish minutes was agreed. MSC unanimously on a voice vote.

## **16. Adjournment**

Roland Peterson closed the meeting with prayer at 2:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Beecken, Secretary

Minutes approved by the Board of Elders, February 2, 2010