

First Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting - Minutes  
November 20, 2016

Council President Gary Inman called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. He reviewed the purpose of the meeting and process for discussion and voting on the proposed building project. The format of the meeting will follow Robert's Rules of Order. Reference was made to Mark Hanson serving as the Parliamentarian.

Registration sign-in sheets were distributed for signatures and ballots disbursed.

Pastor Corey reviewed the efforts of the past year that led to the motion before the congregation. At the 2015 Annual Meeting information was shared that a Feasibility Group would be brought together to begin discerning God's will for this church. Subsequent actions included congregational surveys, small group work all leading to the 2016 Annual Meeting when the findings of the Feasibility Group were presented. Focus groups and the Celebration Summit continued the discussion leading up to this vote.

Pastor Corey led the congregation in prayer.

President Inman called for a motion from the floor.

Loren Stahl made a motion *authorizing the Council and Staff of First Lutheran Church to proceed with the planning and execution of the building project as outlined in previously received materials and to establish a capital campaign under the following guidelines:*

*The capital campaign will be to raise \$13,000,000 with the understanding there is a \$6,000,000 matching gift already provided. Approximate expenses are as follows:*

<i>Building Construction/FFE</i>	<i>\$11,900,000</i>
<i>Existing Debt Retirement</i>	<i>\$987,624</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$12,887,624</i>

*The building project must follow these guiding principles:*

- 1. The project must pass by a majority vote at a congregational meeting.*
- 2. The project must leave First Lutheran Church 100% debt-free.*
- 3. The project cannot begin construction until 10% of the money has been secured, or 110% in pledges has been committed.*
- 4. If we raise more than \$13,000,000 the excess funds will be used to create a fund to ensure adequate staffing at FLC.*

*If funding for this project has not been fully committed and secured by December 31, 2017, this authorization will be revoked.*

President Inman restated the motion as documented above.

John Bennett seconded the motion. President Inman stated the motion as documented above.

Before moving into the discussion phase, Loren Stahl made a motion that during the discussion and question period each person should be limited to 3 minutes/question. Tom Espel seconded. President Inman called for a hand vote. The motion carried with a two-thirds majority from the floor.

Discussion and questions from the floor:

Greg Hammes asked if at the end of December 2017 the funding needed was not met, what would happen to the funds secured?

President Inman responded that the project would not continue as initially planned. However, the issues intended to be solved would not go away, so a new plan would need to be created to address the concerns in another manner. In relation to committed gifts received up that time, each member would be contacted to be asked if they would like to withdraw their commitment or continue to plan the gift to apply to the revised plan which would need to be created.

Judy Lee in a related follow-up to Mr. Hammes' question requested that Council consider an amendment plan for other options to meet the church needs. Were there surveys done to consider expanded worship times? Were space utilization surveys done and all options explored? The mortgage debt has not been significantly reduced since the previous phase. We need to have "skin in the game" – need this to be a partnership of all, not just a few donors. Ms. Lee shared concerns that the proposed design suggests that more educational space is lost than what might be gained in relationship to current and future needs. President Inman responded to the questions and concerns stating the surveys and room utilization were evaluated. He clarified that the addition would provide additional education space not less. He added that the need to make the Celebration Center a dining hall as it was intended was another key consideration. Pastor Corey clarified that if the worship space was the only problem we could probably consider other options, but the needs are greater than that.

Tom Espel asked what considerations have been given to operating expenses with the future expansion. Pastor Corey shared that utility costs would expand across approximately 21,000 sq. ft. Currently a significant human resource need goes to meeting the changing demands of the Celebration Hall. Approximately 80 times a year staff is resetting the space for a given event. In the new plan those resources could be reallocated to serve other church operating needs.

Mr. Espel's second question was in regard to consideration of our global outreach within the community and abroad and the impact this project might have on that work. Pastor Corey responded that the project on the table is intended to alleviate the demands on the staff and facility, but are not intended to change our support for our other initiatives which have been in place within the church.

Dave Rogness made a motion to call for the vote. Lois Altenburg seconded.

Dave Rogness made a motion to recess and reconvene at 12:00 p.m. to present the results. Sindy Keller seconded. President Inman called for a hand vote. Motion carried based on two-thirds majority for approval.

Voting commenced. Ballots collected and tabulated by Council during the recess period. Ballots cast by non-members or incomplete ballots were not considered in the final count.

The Congregational meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m. at which time President Inman presented the voting results. Of the 400 attendees, 314 cast "yes" votes to 75 "no" votes. An overwhelming majority vote to move forward with the next steps of the process.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sindy Keller. Kathy Helming seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Helming  
Council Secretary