

January Church Council Minutes
Immanuel Lutheran Church
January 10, 2017

Beth Hansen called the meeting to order and gave devotions.

Kim Rathjen and Andy Vergeront gave an update on the Youth Housing Project. A group from our community meets monthly with the goal of formulating an operating model. The direction being taken is four 18-24 year-olds occupying the house, each renting their own bedroom and sharing common spaces, with minimal supervision, perhaps meeting weekly with a case manager. Clients above 18 years of age means the house doesn't have to be staffed 24/7, which reduces the cost immensely. Immanuel will not be obligated to support this entity beyond ownership of the house. Immanuel will require insurance, and will take a limited role in this project. Eden Prairie Community Foundation is the fiscal sponsor. The city of Eden Prairie has some funds, between \$50,000-\$75,000, to bring the house purchased up to code.

Secretary's report was approved with two semantic changes. Bob Peterson moved, Jen Johnson seconded.

This is the last meeting for outgoing council members. Beth passed around a ballot with next year's council; still need someone for fellowship and two synod delegates.

Tammy Vergeront was welcomed as our new church administrator.

Financial Secretary- Scott Belseth- December giving fell short by \$32,801 from 2015; attendance in December was down 1,152, possibly due to Christmas falling on a Sunday.

Treasurer's report- Mike Lindahl - we ran a \$30,000 deficit in 2016 which had to come out of reserves. We don't want to do that again. Mike walked us through three scenarios, one with flat spending, one with a 2.5% increase, and one with a 3-4.5% increase. Pledges are up 4-6% (about \$32,000), however, which gives cause for cautious optimism. Mike expanded the three scenarios, explaining them in more detail, finding money in various spots (reducing benevolence, no staff raises, dedicated funds). Pledging dropped from 2015 to 2016, but giving stayed flat. Possibly the capital campaign affected the amount pledged? Mike recommends we build our cash reserves back up to 5% of annual budget. We discussed dedicated accounts for some time, and agreed that they need to be clarified.

Brenda Tonjes moved that we approve scenario #2 for 2017's budget (2.5% increase), seconded by Scott Belseth. Passed.

The annual meeting will be January 29 at noon following a chili and corn bread lunch.

Opening Doors-report for the annual meeting has been put together. The new sign is on the blink, a victim of the Christmas rain, soon to be repaired. Stained glass goes in tomorrow, the shower will be installed soon.

February 19 is an open house for Opening Doors; Martin is putting a 3-4 minute photo summary of all the projects together, which will be aired at the Annual Meeting.

Tammy Vergeront thanked all for their confidence, asked for approval of invoices before she pays bills. Please check your mailboxes!

Martin Rathjen- web site redesign is ongoing, educating families on communion, 195 views of services on Facebook last Sunday, 876 over Christmas Eve and Christmas. Martin and Kim leave soon for Africa with 17 members.

Cari Larsen- Immanuel just finished hosting Families Moving Forward, very good experience with over 100 members helping. We received grateful feedback from the participants.

Pastor Paul- Winter retreat takes place at Onamia coming first weekend in March.

Women's retreat is February 25.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Pat Hammer, council secretary

Those present: Beth Hansen, Brenda Tonjes, Pat Hammer, Mike Lindahl, Scott Belseth, Jennifer Johnson, Chastity Thompson, Christy Woll, Brent Apelt, Melanie Leite-Carroll, Cari Larsen, Ben Orton, Bob Peterson, Tammy Vergeront, Martin Rathjen, Pastor Paul Nelson