

**Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond IL - Congregational Meeting Minutes January 31, 2021**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Task/Timeline</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	Mike Jenkins called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.	NA	NA
<b>Secretary's Report</b>	The minutes from the January 2020 Congregational Meeting were reviewed.	Jon Petersen motioned to accept the minutes. Thorey Ellis seconded the motion. Vote taken. All approved.	NA
<b>President's Report</b>	President, Mike Jenkins thanked Pastor Andy who did a great job seamlessly transitioning to virtual church. He spoke about the many ways Pastor Andy kept people involved through bible studies and he helped keep the Alpha youth group going online. He thanked the musicians, church council and Sue Kubic and daycare staff and Nancy O'Connor with her work with the Sunday School program. He thanked our entire congregation for their stewardship and emphasized that even through these unusual times we as a church have kept moving forward. We are blessed to have received PPP money and that helped keep our daycare in particular working as normal as possible.		
<b>Pastor's Report</b>	Pastor Andy said, "when life is hard, God is good." The challenges of this past year have been overwhelming. He could have never imagined this type of year, but our church has done an amazing job continuing to be generous. And, therefore, we have continued to support ministries throughout our community. We pivoted to a drive through outreach cafe, we hosted our golf outing for veterans, maintained a clothing drive for veterans, and our childcare facility has continued to work well through adversity. He spoke about the great efforts of Sue Fosdal along with Jon Peterson handling the budget wonderfully. He thanked Sue Kubic, who has continued to run the daycare wonderfully through many challenges. He gave thanks to our musicians, Danielle and Tara who have continued to share music in new and exciting ways. And thanked Kristi Peterson who has continued to keep the church clean, and Nancy O'Connor who has done a great job with Sunday School. He thanked all of the many members and volunteers throughout the church, as well as Mike Jenkins, who has become the "jack of all trades" president.	NA	NA
<b>Message from Bishop Jeff Clements</b>	A video was shown from Bishop Clements. He spoke of how in-person Sunday worship brings him the most pleasure and he has missed that very much. He thanked the churches for the hard work they have done within their communities, and keeping up their generosity within the synod as well. He said that we have hope with a future vaccine and will soon be invited back into the church.		
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Jon Petersen is very pleased with the way the congregation continued to give generously. We exceeded our expectations and our income came from donations and the PPP loan which helped us continue to pay salaries. He noted that we paid less than we estimated in the properties ministry category, because we ended up paying the minimum mortgage payment when Covid hit rather than paying the mortgage down as we had been. Utilities were also down because we weren't in the building as much. One increase was due to the necessity of installing a phone in the elevator which is required by state law.	George Jambor motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Chris Bjorklund seconded the motion. Vote taken. All approved.	NA
	Only one question from Lynette Rodriguez about worship aides within the budget. Jon explained that this amount increased due to the various needs when changing to online worship or socially distant worship (Zoom, worship equipment, plexiglass had to be put up, etc.)		
<b>New Business</b>	Jon spoke about the budget for 2021 and being forced to be less optimistic and more realistic. He entered zero for loose plate offerings, kept the guess of offerings that we had last year and kept the same amount in building fund, and dropped the special offerings guess a little for the upcoming year, all in an effort to be realistic. Jon is not projecting anything for PPP, and we are thinking we may need to have to take money out of savings. Softball money was removed, but we can fund it if we are able to have a season. The mortgage will be kept at the minimum payment for now, but we will go back to paying more if things move in the right direction. He has planned for utilities to go back up to a more normal rate. Within the Properties Budget, he added an amount for mulch to be done as well as wheelbarrows to do that work. He is staying pretty consistent throughout budget, although we did give increases to all staff at Grace as per usual, and we will continue to put \$100 a week into savings.	Lynette Rodriguez motioned to approve new budget. Pat Petersen seconded the motion. All approved.	NA
	Pastor Andy recognized the current Council Members and explained that the congregation nominates council members and then the council appoints positions. Shannon Johnson, Bryan Johnson and Jeff Stark will be the new members.	Jon Petersen motioned to approve the members of the Nominating Committee. Pat Giannini seconded the motion. All approved.	
<b>Old Business</b>	None	NA	NA
	Sandy Messick mentioned that she liked being able to review the budget before the meeting and would like to do that moving forward. Jon agreed that it was a good practice that he hopes to continue.		
<b>Open Discussion</b>	None	NA	NA
<b>Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned by Mike at 11:09 a.m.	Kathie Behm motioned to adjourn, George Jambor seconded the motion. All voted in favor to adjourn.	NA
	Present: Pastor Andy Tyrell, Deb Billig, Thorey Ellis, Mike Jenkins, Michelle Jones, Jon Petersen, Jennifer Yoder Absent: Kim Morris, Mallory Jensen		
	Members Present: Linda Davis, Shannon Johnson, Jeff and Sarah Stark, Lynette Rodriguez, Lynn and George Jambor, Sue Kubic, David Billig, Pat Petersen, Patricia and Phil Giannini, Nancy O'Connor, Kathie Behm and Steve Salemi, Sandy Messick, Chris Bjorklund, Debbie and Dave Oelert, Rita Popenhagen, Ann Johnson, Katrina Jenkins, Ray and Sandy Yoder, Barbara Parks, Terri Cooke		
	Submitted by: Michelle Jones 01/31/2021		