

Mt Olive Evangelical Free Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 25, 2025, 6:30pm, Mt Olive Church

0. Welcome by Kevin Peters & prayer by David P.
 - a. Mentioned that this is the Congregational meeting, not the Annual General Meeting

0. Announcements
 - a. Pastor Alvin is on sabbatical, any concerns for the church should be addressed to Pastor Paris while Pastor Alvin is away.
 - b. Alexis will be returning as part time children's ministry director in a half time role. She will be helped by a group that has been put together for that purpose.
 - c. Connections Co-Ordinator position will be filled by Nicole, in a part time role. She will also be part time in her MTO Reach role. This will be a one-year trial basis.

0. Quorum established!

0. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Greg Bauer
Seconded: Don Richards
Carried

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes of the November 17, 2024 Annual General Meeting as presented.
Seconded: Richard Marples
Carried

2. Approval of Budget

Barb Hazelton: We are currently overall at 99% of budget on the current year! We are so thankful for this generous church, and their generosity when it come to giving towards the ministry of Mt Olive Church. Brief description of the process of how the budget is prepared and put together for the coming year. Reminder of the change of the fiscal year-end dates for the church, and the timing of some financial events throughout the year due to that change.

Motion to recommend to the MOEFC membership the approval of the annual budget July 2025 – June 2026.

Seconded: Andrew Potter

Presentation of the annual budget for July 2025 – June 2026. In addition to regular line items, Barb spoke of the changes and additions to the budget, and the rationale for those changes. Opportunity was given for the congregation to ask questions, there were no further questions from the floor.

Carried

3. Building Fund Use

Kevin Peters presented the rationale for the motion to the congregation, including a short review of the history of the building project to this time.

- i. The degree of detail for the planning process is unattainable when attempted by volunteer effort.
- ii. The engagement of consultants in the area of project management and fundraising along with support of church leadership and volunteers would give us the clearest understanding of what is necessary to make the decision to say, “Yes”, “No”, or “Wait” on moving ahead with the building.
- iii. There is currently \$200,000+ in the building fund.
- iv. This motion is being brought to the Congregational Meeting for membership agreement with the intention to inform the congregation of a way forward.

Motion to use the current Building Fund to advance project and fundraising planning.

Seconded: Andrew Potter

Question regarding bringing this to the AGM, and clarity was given that this motion is being brought to this Congregational Meeting.

Question about if the intent is still to allow Mt Olive to gather together for one service, rather than to have multiple services. That was still the idea, but this would provide clarity to the process.

Comment that this course of action is a very good course of action and can end up saving much money in the long run.

Question regarding why the building project lost momentum, and if that is an indicator that the answer right now might be “Wait”. Answer given that the loss of momentum was linked to a lack of manpower to do the project, and that this is one of the things that needs to be answered by this consultant. Glenn Brown also contributed that the building committee (since dissolved) saw a few indicators before covid that more time was needed at that time. He suggested that adding a

budget line for a new building is a good way to get a start, so that money begins to become available in future years.

Question about if this is approval from the congregation to hire someone for this. Answered that this is approval that the board be able to hire someone with this building project money.

Question about why are we doing this, what is the vision for this? Answered that this would be a part of this process, as we gather information.

Where would we be gathering evidence from? Answer that we have been gathering evidence for the last 10 years, and it needs to be updated and confirmed as we move along. Part of the reason for bringing this to the congregation is to be transparent and accountable to the congregation, as this is a big decision. Bringing this to the congregation is a part of the board being accountable to the congregation throughout this process.

Richard M spoke about the vision to see people become devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and that our current space is limiting our ability to do so. The space is no longer adequate for the size of our congregation and is making most of the ministries of Mt Olive church a challenge. We need to answer the question of what “we” (Mt Olive) want to do and what “we” (Mt Olive) are able to do. Hiring someone to answer these questions and to drive the project forward so that we have the needed answers to the questions, before those answers change.

Sam mentioned that we have been challenged to pray for 4. If God is to answer that prayer, are we prepared for that? God provided the land, and there is money available for this. What do we need to do is this is what God is asking us to do right now?

Comment that we need to keep on going back to the vision, as that is what will keep us going as we work through this process.

Comment regarding the things that we have to routinely put up with and have come to accept as the norm, like the kids footsteps, shaky cameras, gathering as a church outside, etc, and that this seems to point towards the need for a bigger building.

Comment regarding the decision that was made during covid to move forward with acquiring the land, even though the risk felt very extreme at that time. God provided the land at that time, has he now changed his mind? Encouragement that we shouldn't lose nerve at this time, be reminded of what God has already done.

Pastor Paris spoke about putting together a prayer team that will be praying for this process, and seeking what God would have for the church to do. There is a need for more space as staff, it is difficult to accomplish the ministries of Mt Olive in the current space.

Carried

4. Approval of Nomination Committee

Motion to approve Donna Brown, Denise Lockhart, Clinton Nigh, and Greg Bauer as members of the 2025 nominating committee.

Seconded: Don Richards

Carried

5. Adjournment & Prayer (8:08 pm)