

Hosanna Lutheran Church
Annual Voters Meeting
November 13th, 2005
Taken and compiled by Mark Sherak

Call to Order: Jude Donovan, Council President called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Greg opened in prayer.

Agenda Approval: Motion was made to pass and accept the agenda.

Pastoral Review: Pastor thanked the congregation for the time he spent with his family at his mother's passing. He also thanked the congregation for the opportunities this year to attend the Pastoral Training Institute. Other thanks included the Transitions Team, the 40 Days of Community participants, and Aimee Dierking and the Pre-school staff.

2005 Semi-Annual Meeting: Jude recalled the highlights of the May voters meeting including the audit report and reports from the Transitions and Staffing Task Force teams.

Treasurers Report: (see handouts) Margo Pasha reported that year-to-date the church is running a \$23,000 deficit. She said that she has had to borrow from restricted funds to pay the bills lately. She stated that the shortfall can only be overcome with more givings from the congregation. Temporarily, \$18,000 from the road construction settlement has been put toward current expenses.

Budget report: (see attachment to Agenda) The 2006 budget was prepared by Young Willingham. It was sent out to the congregation through the prayer chain and printed copies. The 2006 \$332,000 budget includes a projected deficit as well. Maxine Wightman spoke up and expressed her concern that most people had expressed in the last Annual voters meeting that we should not include a built in deficit in the budget. John Hoener interjected that concerns were raised that we not go farther than we could guarantee funds for. He pointed out that the budget is as bare bones as it can get and that it behooves us all to focus heavily on mission and ministry. He also said that no limitations were put upon the Council regarding the budget.

Jude Donovan pointed out that increases in costs of utilities, insurance have come about in the last year. Payrolls have been increased according to schedule but no other significant increases have been made.

Pastor Greg stated that this is indeed a bare bones budget and he would encourage anyone to come up with a plan to decrease the budget by \$20,000. The motion was made and accepted to accept the budget as is.

Election: The leader of the nominating committee, Doug Ferguson, presented the Nominations as follows:

Jude Donovan - President

Guy Larson - President Elect

Margo Pasha - Treasurer

Lynn Marsh - Treasurer Elect

Doug asked if there were any nominations from the congregation. Michael Dustin said that he has been considering a vision for Hosanna with 2 called workers, and an active and full Sunday school. He stated that we should look back to capture the vision of the old days at Hosanna. Michael nominated the first charter member of Hosanna, Maxine Wightman. Maxine Wightman pointed out that when the church was first organized the emphasis was on the children. She feels that we have gotten away from that vision. For instance, she pointed out the fact that there are no Sunday school teachers attending the voters meeting because they are all busy teaching. She maintained that something should have been done to accommodate them to attend. She stated that she is not necessarily up to date on all issues but would work with Council to amend that. Maxine accepted the nomination for President. A motion was made to decide whether to vote by show of hands or a written ballot for electing the President. Show of hands vote won over written ballot by the count of 28 to 21. The election was conducted by John Hoener. Jude Donovan was elected Council President. The slate passed unanimously.

Reports:

Pastoral Ministry Committee: John Hoener reported that the elders have been working with the Pastor to reorganize and have made strides in becoming more efficient and effective. He pointed out that it is troubling that the members of the congregation have not been as generous as the Lord has been generous with them. He asked that the congregation to take on the opportunities to serve, be more active, and to give more monetarily. He pointed out that the little boy offered up all of his loaves and fish and Christ did miracles with it. We should trust God to do miracles with our ministry.

Transition Team: Heidi Boettcher said that the Transition Team was started 18 months ago and the following advances have been made: The Church Council and the Elders have been reorganized, the youth

have been given a more spiritual focus, a chair person is being sought for Education, Witness and Outreach has run 40 Days of Purpose and 40 Days of Community, and the Church by-laws will be updated. All these tasks will be taken over by the Church Council.

Jude Donovan stated that the reports for each ministry are available in written form in the Annual Report.

Staffing Task Force: Milo Samson reported that there are very few highlights since May and attributed apathy and a lack of action for what this task force has accomplished.

School Board: In the absence of the chair, Jude reported that the Pre-school currently has 43 students and a staff of 4. This represents a significant increase. This ministry has come back very strong under Aimee' Dierking's direction. We continue to improve our outreach to and from the congregation by sending the Heralds to the pre-school parents, running Operation Christmas Children, and planning a carnival fundraiser. M.J. Pirk encouraged all members to visit. We are considering adding more staff or classes or both. Pre-school is on solid financial footing for the first time in years.

Old Business: None pending.

New Business:

Temporary Orders: Reorganization of Council (see handout) Jude read the proposal for the reorganization of Council aloud and asked that the motion be made to accept them.

Eric Linneman asked that the Leaders Board be amended to include the Treasurer and the Treasurer Elect.

Maxine Wightman said that she thought all of the committees were meeting on a monthly basis. Jude told her that Witness and Outreach is the only committee she knows of that is meeting monthly. Terry Utecht stated that due to lack of commitment from the congregation, many of the committees have dropped to one person and monthly meetings are not needed.

Pastor Greg interjected that many of the committees have found that they are more effective without monthly meetings. Many committees have started using e-mail to make communications much more efficient and effective. He said that this represents new and innovative ways of serving.

Maxine asked if the minutes for the committee meetings are available for the congregation to read. Pastor responded that he will supply any minutes by e-mail or hard copy as requested.

The motion was made and seconded to accept the reorganization of Council with the amendment of adding the Treasurer and Treasurer Elect to the Leaders board. The motion passed.

Staffing Proposal: (see handout) Pastor Greg proposed that we hire a year-long part-time worker to help with youth and adult education once 50% of the funds are raised. Pastor said this will not be a budgeted item and that the money will be raised as a restricted fund. Pastor said this will not be a called worker but will be someone to work with the youth and Sunday school whose duties will be defined by the Youth board. Maxine Wightman asked what would happen if we only got the 50% donation. Pastor responded we would only keep the person for 6 months. The question was raised if this person would be the DCE type. Pastor said that this person will not be a DCE but will need to have a heart for youth and be a Christian. Pastor pointed out that we were able to raise \$8000 for the tsunami and stained glass funds when they were needed. He said that we will use a Thrivent matching grant and will also use the money donated to his mother's memorial fund for the first step. The motion was made and approved to hire a part time worker.

Staffing Task Force proposal: Was withdrawn by Milo Samson.

Announcement Marge Drew will be the Financial Secretary; Stephanie Larson is the Nursery coordinator.

May Voters Meeting Minute Approval: The minutes from the May voters were read and approved by vote.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Greg stated that he was pleased with the participation in this voters meeting and he is looking forward to inviting Maxine Wightman and others to take a leadership role in the new Christian Education Committee as a goal for 2006.

Meeting was closed at 10:25 by all singing the doxology.