

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 14, 2024 9:56 a.m.

Notice of this meeting was directed by the Congregational Council to be held on today Sunday, January 14, 2024 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

Email notice was sent to all members who receive email communications as was notice made in FELC's January newsletter, with the specific motions announced the past two Sunday's during worship.

The purpose of this special meeting is to address the three motions.

Since this is a Special Congregational Meeting, no other business may be transacted at this meeting.

According to our constitution, to reach a quorum for today's meeting we need at least 16 voting members of the congregation. Becky Hulden, Council President, declared that we have a quorum and called this Special Congregational Meeting of First Evangelical Lutheran Church to be in order.

The first motion is to accept that we as a congregation choose to enter into the Season of Renewal Cohort offered through the St. Paul Area synod, with the \$3,500 fee to be taken from the Lowell Nelson outreach fund (line item 3245).

As this motion is brought by the congregational Council only a second is needed to bring it to the floor. Wendy Szczepanski seconded the motion.

Discussion- Due to a question from the congregation the Cohort was explained. The Season of Renewal Cohort is a year-long seminar designed to assist churches as they determine their vitality and what changes need to be made. The cohort consists of several congregations who are committed to making changes to ensure their vitality in the future. The year-long process consists of 4 in-person group meetings with a consultant, 2 Zoom meetings and 18 individual meetings for the team and pastor to meet with the consultant. This process would help us figure out what our future will look like. It will help us complete the Ministry Site Profile, which is needed to call a pastor.

The fee goes to pay for 18 sessions with the consultant and travel expenses. The Synod is probably covering most of the cost because consultants are expensive. The consultant, Mary Frances, is an independent consultant.

It was agreed to conduct a show of hands for the vote. The motion passed with one abstention.

The second motion considered is that the Church Council has approval to spend up to \$6000 to be taken out of the undesignated memorial fund to purchase chairs and a chair rack for the fellowship hall.

As this motion is brought by the congregational Council only a second is needed to bring it to the floor. Jerry Rhodes seconded the motion.

During the discussion there was concern about why we need more folding chairs since we have a rack of chairs that we don't use very often. We currently have enough chairs for the tables we are using.

The Property committee looked into refurbishing the chairs. It costs more to reupholster the old ones than to buy new ones.

The chairs are deteriorating and should be replaced. Plastic chairs are more comfortable than they used to be. Perhaps we could get chairs from a liquidation place or convention center.

It was suggested to put this on hold until we have a better idea of what we want. The property committee has done due diligence and has information about many chairs.

There is a motion and a second so we need to vote on whether to approve money for the chairs or not.

The vote was taken by a show of hands. 18 voted yes, 0 voted no and one abstention.

The third motion was to extend Pastor Dwight Rudquist's contract until May 19, 2025. This contract includes an extended vacation allotment from July 22nd through August 25th (3 paid, 3 unpaid). Also, this contract can be terminated by the congregation prior to the end date if an arrangement is made to call another pastor or Pastor Rudquist can terminate the contract if he notifies the congregation 60 days prior to his departure.

As before, this motion is brought by the Congregational Council and so only a second is needed to bring it to the floor. Seconded by Angie Dahlstrom.

Jerry Rhodes made a motion to have an amendment to the third motion to pay Pastor Rudquist for all six Sundays during his extended vacation. The motion was seconded by Don Hansen.

A hand vote was taken to add the amendment to the third motion.

The motion passed.

A hand vote was taken on the third motion with the amendment to include 6 paid Sundays.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Rhodes and Angie Dahlstrom seconded it.

Faithfully submitted,

Miriam Flysjo, Council Secretary