

**PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
232 WINDSOR STREET - SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590**

**CONGREGATION VOTERS MEETING
DATE: 22 October 2007**

A. OPENING DEVOTION: Vicar Laitien opened the meeting with a short devotion with reference to Acts, Chapter 15.

B. OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION: The issues are in order of the printed agenda.

1. Stewardship Appeal Update: Darrel Zastrow presented an update on the process we used for our recent appeal. A review of the entire process from the start was presented. There is one more event in the appeal, and that is the Family Financial course that will be held shortly in the school. Out of 213 family giving units in church. Out of these, 122 have returned their appeal PSP. The funds received are to pay our debt reduction, or the mortgage. We are well on our way to raising \$400,000 to reduce some of our debt. The members will be seeing status reports in future monthly and weekly bulletins.

2. Budget Update. Michael Maass updated the members present to the latest status of our budget. We are ahead on our budget by having more receipts than expenses. We are short some in our offerings, but ahead in our school receipts. Expenses are on track to the budget. The cash analysis report was also reviewed. The monthly expansion fund analysis was reviewed, which shows the amount we have received each month to cover our monthly mortgage payment.

3. Investment Opportunity Floyd Becraft reported that our church finances are in good order. We had an audit on 9 August of the church finances. It was found that everything was in order and records are being kept in good order. We are fortunate to have a great bookkeeper, Nicole Gould. She keeps the financial records in very good order. Floyd then introduced the investing opportunity. We have a mortgage that we pay an interest rate of 7.16%. We also have a lot of funds in other accounts that are only earning 2 to 5% that are in various accounts. It was felt that if we are not going to pay down the mortgage, we should put this money to better use to earn additional or more interest to build up income for future mortgage payments. Floyd explained the stock investments that he has been involved in over the past years. Most of the investments offer a monthly dividend, but the yield is the most important item. With these stocks, we can earn more than we are paying in interest on our mortgage. The average yield of the recommended stocks is 9.22%, which is more than our mortgage rate.

4. Excommunication Proceedings. Pastor Werre was happy to report that the individual in question has apparently responded to the congregation's disciplinary process and has asked to begin working with the Board of Elders to amend his ways. Proceeding with the excommunication at this time will not be necessary. Pastor explained the process of excommunication, and how it works to help the member, not punish the member

5. Council Member Nominations. Tim Metz announced all the nominees that are up for election for the upcoming calendar year.

6. Vicar Program. Kevin Riley reviewed the overall vicar program, and how our congregation is involved in this program. Things are going very well, and recommend that we continue this program. A vicar does help a lot in relieving the work load on the pastor. We need to notify the synod of our intentions soon so we get on the list to receive a vicar next year. Vicar Laitien gave a short

briefing on how he is doing in his training. Pastor Werre indicated we are on a high priority to receive a vicar.

7. Synod Convention Update / Congregation Mission Offering (CMO). Pastor Werre recapped his attendance at the recent Synod Convention. It was recommended to close one of our synod prep schools. This idea was rejected. It was recommended to ask for a special offering of our congregations to help in our worker training system. This was approved. This relates to our Church Mission Offerings. The synod would like to know what we will be doing for our CMO for the year 2008. The recommendations are to raise our CMO amount, and a one time gift if the congregation can afford it. The synod is more in favor of increasing CMO amounts, which is more sustaining than the one time gifts. It is recommended by the council to give a one time gift of \$7500, possibly coming from the Gifts-Trust Fund. Our CMO is a percentage of our annual operating budget.

C. VOTERS MEETING:

The Voters meeting was called to order by President Tim Metz at 9:00 PM on 22 October 2007, at Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church. 18 members were present.

1. Previous meeting minutes:

Minutes of the 21 May 2007 meeting were read.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the previous voters meeting as read. Seconded.

Vote: Passed.

2. Investment Opportunity Approval:

MOTION by J Russ: To approve the investment opportunity of 20% of the expansion fund into stocks recommended by Floyd Becraft. Seconded. Vote: Passed

3. Excommunication Approval:

Not required.

4. Election of Board Members:

<> First position for election is the Board of Elders Chairperson. Nominations Committee recommended one person: David Kapanke. No other nominations from the floor.

MOTION by J Meyer: To close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for David Kapanke.

Seconded. Vote Passed.

<> Next position for election is the School Board Chairperson. Nominations Committee recommended two persons: Randy Wiessinger, and James Pingel. No other nominations from the floor.

MOTION by F Becraft: To close nominations. Seconded. Vote: Passed. Paper ballot requested.

First vote ended in a tie vote. Second vote elected Randy Wiessinger.

<> Next position for election is the Secretary. Nominations Committee recommended three persons: Kurt Hannahs, Larry True, and Doug Zomer. None were present, but Pastor Werre brief the group on each individual.

Vote declared Larry True the winner.

MOTION by F Becraft: To cast a unanimous ballot to Larry True as Secretary. Seconded.

Vote: Passed

<> Next position for election is the Vice-President. Nominations Committee had no recommendations. Nominations opened to the floor

MOTION by F Becraft: To nominate James Pingel for Vice President. Seconded. Vote: Passed.

MOTION by D Kapanke to close nominations. Seconded. Vote: Passed.

MOTION by F Becraft: To cast a unanimous vote for James Pingel for Vice President. Seconded.

Vote: Passed.

<> Next position for election is the President. Nominations Committee had no recommendations.

MOTION by F Becraft: To nominate James Meyer as president for one year to fill out the term. Seconded. Vote: Passed.

MOTION by F Becraft: To close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for James Meyer for President. Seconded. Vote Passed.

All newly elected chairs and officers should be notified to attend the next two council meetings.

MOTION by F Becraft: To destroy the ballots. Seconded. Vote: Passed

5. Vicar Program Approval:

MOTION by K Riley: To continue the vicar program for 2008-2009. Seconded. Vote: Passed.

5. Congregation Mission Offering (CMO)

MOTION by F Becraft: To give \$7500 over and above the budgeted amount for the 2008-2009 CMO from the Gifts Trust Fund disbursements. Seconded. Vote: Passed.

D. OTHER BUSINESS:

None

E. NEXT VOTERS MEETING: To be determined later.

F. AJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Vote: Passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

/s/ *Robert Serrahn*

Robert Serrahn
Recording Secretary
30 October 2007

Approved on: _____