

# Atonement Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

## January 28, 2024 **DRAFT**

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### Preliminary

- Copies of the May 2023 congregational meeting minutes were distributed, available online via presented URL.
- Pastor Zac opened with Prayer
- Attendance was taken -> Quorum confirmed.
- Tina Boutelle, Council President, called the meeting to order.

### Atonement Foundation Update - Keith Pittrich

#### Foundation Preliminary

- Annual report & financials are available
- Request to approve minutes from 2023 annual meeting.
  - Keith Mundy moved, John Jensen second, approved unanimous.

#### Foundation Reports Highlights

- Balance grew from <\$120K '22 -> \$143K end of '23.
- Stock market growth, updates in giving, fewer grants given
- Foundation getting grants for several years, needed 100K to begin giving grants.
- Continues to grow – support ministries of church.
- Grant approval history included
- Grant process under review to increase/encourage grant applications.
- Areas of ministries but not operating expenses.
- Finalizing brochure available in a few weeks including.

#### Foundation New Items

- One vacancy on board, recommending new member Rickie Neuman
- Any other nominations? No. Nominations cease?
  - Jim Peine moved, Jim Thorpe second, approved unanimous
- Motion to accept Rickie Neuman as new Foundations committee member?
  - Jim Mundy moved, Jim Thorpe second, approved unanimous
- Thanks to stewardship committee,
- Thanks to commitments to annual and legacy giving.
- Motion to adjourn foundations discussion
  - Tom Assel moves, Jen Kesinger seconds, approved unanimous.

## Treasurer's Report - Mike Daley

### 2023 Financial Review

- Giving increased 7% to \$1,439,000 in 2023, however, we had budgeted for giving to increase 12% for a shortfall of \$68,000.
- Total expenses were \$22,000 less than we budgeted, despite incurring some large expenses for the fire alarm panel during the year.
- We continued the steady paydown of the mortgage balance; the mortgage balance is \$65,000 and we are on track to pay off in early 2024.
- On a cash basis (adjusted for depreciation and mortgage cost) the operating deficit was (\$47,000), an improvement compared to the 2022 deficit of (\$64,000).
- Cash balances (excluding dedicated accounts) were \$149,000 compared to \$218,000 a year ago.
- Thank you to the Audit Committee - Bob Boomer, Ed Hoelze and Elizabeth Burt.

### 2023 Budget Overview

Giving: Total gifts pledged through the Fall stewardship campaign were consistent with last year. The 2024 budgeted giving is \$1,510,000 which is consistent with the 2023 budget and represents a 5% increase over 2023 actual giving.

Expenses: Overall expense budget is \$343,000 higher than 2023, offset by the lower mortgage expense. Below are several areas of note regarding expenses (all comparisons are to 2022 actual income/expense):

- Salaries and benefits increased \$141,000 due to staff salary increases and a new Director of Communications position.
- Total Benevolence - Synod giving + Outreach ministry represents a 20% increase from 2023.
- Property management and utilities are budgeted to increase \$28,000 compared to 2023 primarily due to an increase in our insurance cost and other required property inspections.
- For the first time, the budget includes \$150,000 allocation to Campus Sustainment. Think of this as planned savings so we can ensure the Campus remains a vibrant asset for years to come.

Campus Sustainment Fund: Our Campus sustainment fund has a balance of \$152,000 as of December 31, 2023 which will allow for partial funding of the projects planned for 2024.

### Finances Conclusion

- Q&A: no questions regarding the budget.
- Motion to accept/approve budget
  - Bob Lindeblad moved, Keith Mundy second, Approved unanimous.

## Welcome & Inclusion Team Update - Tina Boutelle

- Forum to be held February 4, 7pm to present survey, recommendations results.
- Thanks to WIC – Steve Ruschill, Stephanie Bartels-Christensen, Laura Kamienski.
- Q&A? none.

## State of the Union – Pastor Zac.

- Hired Nathan Choate as full time director of communications, effective March 4.
- School of Arts – open online but not enough students to start a physical school.
- Lent – Mark focus, Mid-week “story telling” mostly gospel of Mark
- Bible study outside – also focus on Mark
- PZ to be away on Sabbatical June & July 2024,
- Worship attendance growth 2 percent during last half 23
- Christmas Eve - most attendance in 4 years

## Tina Boutelle final comments

- Paying off mortgage – mortgage end party planning underway
- Synod assembly June – need 4 volunteers
- Thanks Jordan & Zac for great leadership

## Thoughts + Closing Prayer - Pastor Jordan

- Thanks for the call!
- Ending prayer
- Ended 12:33pm