

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
2020 Annual Congregational Meeting
June 28, 2020 (Part 1)
August 9, 2020 (Part 2)

Part 1 (June 28, 2020)

11:30am - Roll call of those members logging into the Zoom online meeting – Quorum achieved.

11:39am – Call to order by Council President Colin Walker.

- Colin reminded us the meeting would be recorded for minute taking purposes; he thanked Gorman Colling for serving as Parliamentarian.
- Colin said these are really weird times and this is a weird way to hold a Congregational Meeting; he has been on Zoom calls with others in the Synod and all are experiencing the same feelings. But we are staying with the spirit of our Bylaws.
- He introduced Gorman Colling as our Parliamentarian.
- Pastor Dave Thomas led us in the opening prayer.

Approval of minutes of last year's Annual Congregational Meeting in 2019 – the motion to approve was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Dave acknowledged this was an interesting way for us to meet. He thanked Colin and Kristie Walker for running the Zoom meeting, Council and Executive Committee for their leadership, and Gorman for serving as Parliamentarian.
- He said as a congregation we continue to be God's people and are looking for new ways to be. He acknowledged how hard times are and that though some

are inconvenienced, others have experienced tragic loss of lives. We are continuing to learn new things, like new ways to communicate; recorded worship gives us another way to connect and we will continue this.

- God's people have traveled through difficult times before. Our church has not closed down: outreach and ministry continue, our leadership team continues to lead and vision for the future, and our congregation continues to generously share their gifts and offer encouragement. We are pilgrims on a journey, not knowing our path, but we have faith in God. Thank you for letting me serve you and with you as your pastor.

President's Report

- Colin said he wanted to concentrate on all we have accomplished and what is next. He first thanked former President Gale Hill for her help in making it such a smooth transition from one Council to the next. He mentioned the completion of the roof truss project, the resulting financial issues and the tremendous support of the congregation that actually left us with a surplus for the future, and that 65-70 of us joined a Zoom Annual Meeting – we are resilient! We continued to serve the homeless through Congregations for the Homeless even though it looked a little different. We have great things ahead of us as we continue to contribute to our community and world, and he is looking forward to the time when we can again worship and serve together.
- Colin recognized current Council members, Pastor Dave and Pastor Judy and said they were a great team to work with. Closing in-person worship was not an easy decision. He thanked everyone for coming to the meetings prepared and engaged, and is looking forward to our work together next year.

Envisioning our Future – Colin explained that the Nominating Committee was charged with identifying candidates for Council, Covenant Committee, and Endowment Board. Much of this work was deferred due to the pandemic, but they will soon be finished filling a slate for Vice President (1-year term), Secretary (2-year unexpired term), three

at-large positions (two 3-year terms and 1 unexpired 2-year term), and a Covenant Committee member. Today they are announcing a slate for the two positions on the Endowment Board: Lisbeth Nielsen and Doug Rogers. (There are six members; two members term out each year and two more are added.) After asking Gorman about recessing the Annual Meeting Colin asks for a motion to appoint Lisbeth Nielsen and Doug Rogers to the Endowment Board and to move the election of the Council and Covenant Committee to lay on the table. The motion was made, seconded and a yes vote was unanimous.

Election of the 2020-21 Nominating Committee – Colin asked for five nominees who are not members of the current Nominating Committee. Jerry Johnson, Joan Davis, Brian Constable, Sharen Stoll, and Jean Westby volunteered. A motion to close nominations was made, seconded and the yes vote was unanimous. A motion to approve the slate was made, seconded and the yes vote was unanimous.

Budget Presentation – Cyndee Kraiger could not be here for the presentation; Colin presented her report, asking Gorman Colling and Kristen Clark to contribute.

- We have a \$505,000 income/expense budget; currently we are under budget in expenses and over budget in income.
- We have a little over \$19,000 in contingency funds.
- The congregation was very generous during the “Season of Caring” campaign and continues their generosity during the pandemic. Pastor Dave said he is inspired, impressed, and humbled by the congregation. He noted we are keeping costs low, and he thanked the Finance Committee for procuring our Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan.
- The Ark, our “downstairs church” ministry, is down in enrollment; about one third of students are still enrolled, one third have paid a portion of their tuition to hold their space, and one third have withdrawn; their fiscal year ended with a positive balance.

- Since we are a little uncertain, we are recommending a six-month planning budget to carry us forward through October 2020; we will keep the revenue and expenses at \$505,000 divided by two, as this will allow us an opportunity for mid-year changes.
- We received a \$130,000 PPP loan for the upstairs and downstairs church which provides us a buffer for payroll so we can keep staff and avoid furloughs and eliminating positions.
- The Budget Committee will start meeting in August to look at trends and needs to prepare for a Congregational Meeting in October.
- The Ark budget is in the Annual Report.
- Colin reviewed the general topics in the budget and asked for questions:
 - Q: Why don't we include in the budget what we actually plan to incur including monies coming from dedicated funds?
 - A: Colin said we mostly use dedicated funds for specific projects that have not been budgeted for (i.e.: unexpected elevator repair).
- Gorman reminded us that this is a planning budget based on last year's budget that had been approved by the congregation; he thanked the Finance and Budget Committees in advance for continuing to monitor our progress.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the six-month planning budget; the vote was unanimous.
- Finally Colin gave an overview of the Bequest Fund. The Lilleby Bequest included a 10 percent contribution to the Synod (sent) and approved use in the areas of outreach, congregational care, worship and global mission.

Pandemic Response – Pastor Dave said these are strange times, but we are not alone; we are working with the ELCA, NW Synod, and East King County cluster (8 congregations).

- The Onsite Reopening Task Team was appointed
 - to determine what it will take for us to reopen for on-site worship,
 - to find ways to meet before we move back indoors, and

- to keep track of WA state, CDC and WHO guidelines, and members' readiness to return.
- In-person worship was suspended the second Sunday in March; since then, Pastor Dave, Colin, Ben, and Matt Pohle have recorded services – big thanks to Editor and Producer Colin for the beautiful and varied experiences he offers!
- Pastor Dave is also working on how staff can best do their jobs and ministries when they are remote. They continue zoom staff meetings and are keeping all staff working even though it may be in new ways and new tasks.
- We are still working on possible sale of some of our property, and revisiting the idea of becoming a center for community.
- Colin let us know that the Ark is still running, the Grounds Team is still busy especially in the Garden of Remembrance, and the annual fire inspection went well.

The Road Ahead – Colin and Pastor Dave

- What is Cross of Christ going to be in 5-10 years from now? Who will we serve? Who will be our members?
- We have a lot of value tied up in our property, and we are actively reviewing what would it mean to free up some of our land. We have a Real Estate Task Force looking into this, but of course nothing will happen without congregational support. We are looking into options such as selling some property, holding property for ten more years, and/or building some affordable housing to lease or rent. We're working with a professional to evaluate what is possible and what our community needs; he'll meet first with the Real Estate Task Force and then with Council. We'll have something to report within the next several months.
- Pastor Dave reminded us that although we cannot be together, he and Colin are accessible to chat with anyone who would like to.

Pastor Dave led us in a closing prayer and asked us all to unmute and join in saying the Lord's Prayer – quite lively!

The meeting ended at 12:56pm, but was not adjourned. Colin declared the Annual Meeting in recess until we are called back to elect a Covenant Committee member and Council.

Part 2 (August 9, 2020)

11:30am – Roll call of those members logging into the Zoom online meeting – Quorum achieved.

11:38am – Call to order by Council President Colin Walker.

- Colin said these were weird times and a weird way to hold a Congregational Meeting, but we would get through it like we did Part 1 in June.
- He reminded us that our Annual Meeting was recessed in June and today would be a continuation of that meeting, and that the meeting would be recorded for minute taking purposes; he thanked Gorman Colling for serving as parliamentarian.
- Pastor Dave Thomas (in a liturgically correct face mask) gave the opening prayer.

Colin said the major order of business was the report of the Nominating Committee and elections; he thanked the Nominating Committee and presented the slate:

- Vice President – Brian Constable (1-year term)
- Secretary – Carrol Harris (2-year unexpired term)
- At-large Position 1 – Julia Brewer (3-year term)
- At-large Position 2 – Bob Shelley (a second 3-year term)
- At-large Position 6 – Lugano Isinika (2-year unexpired term)
- Endowment Board – Lisbeth Nielsen & Doug Rogers (these positions were elected during Part 1 of the Annual Meeting)

- Covenant Committee – Julie Hockett

Colin thanked the volunteers who were concluding their terms, and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none he said he would entertain a motion to close nominations; this was moved by Jerry Johnson and seconded by Bev Walker and the yes vote was unanimous. He next said he would entertain a motion to elect the slate of officers; there was a motion, second, and a unanimous yes vote.

Colin then introduced a section on Next Steps:

- Budget – Colin thanked the congregation for being flexible and adaptable this year and for approving the 6th month planning budget during Part 1 of the Annual Meeting. He expects the Budget Committee to work with the Core Team Leaders to propose the second half budget to the Council in October; then we will have another Congregational Meeting in late October to review and approve it.
- Finances – Colin said we continue to do well and he thanked everyone for their generous and ongoing support in giving. The Ark is doing well also even with reduced numbers of students (At first one third of students continued; one third did not attend, but held their spot with a reduced payment; and one third withdrew. We now have 24 students.)
- Worship and Music – Pastor Dave thanked everyone for their notes and emails in support of online worship and studies. He thanked Judy Giseburt and Pastor Judy Brennan for their roles in preparing for worship. He also thanked the video production team of Colin, Ben Fowler and Matt Pohle; he further commended Colin for his creativity and passion and said, "I don't know where we'd be without him."
- Future Plans – Pastor Dave said they will continue to experiment with worship settings including the "stay at home setting" that has been very popular. His team is also working on future services, festivals, Reformation, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. He said we continue to go forward and

continue to stay connected. Feel free to email him with questions, comments, or suggestions.

- Onsite Worship Reopening Task Team – Pastor Dave thanked them for their work and said they were looking at rescheduling the outdoor worship service.

Colin and Pastor Dave thanked everyone for their support. Pastor Dave gave the closing prayer and we were adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrol Harris, Secretary