MEFC 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

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(Meeting officially held May 31, 2020 @ 5pm at the church and online due to COVID-19)

Attendees:

Those in person:

Eli Paulsrud, Steve Nelson, Pastor Andrew, Pastor Pete, Scott Lovell, Tim & Greta Petersen, Doug Goodburn, Randy Eaton, Kyle & Leigh Anne Oswald, and Mark & Karen Johnson

Those on Zoom:

Leah Johnson, Molly Paulsrud, Jason Farver, Pastor Larry & Sandy Ostercamp, Jason & Carey Ducommun, Pat & Jim Johansen, Brenda Welch, Cindra Goodburn, Kathy Nelson, Sharon Nelson, and Kathy and Joey Dyslin

**Welcome:** Chairman Mark Johnson

**Opening prayer:** Elder Scott Lovell, prayed for our church’s business, technology, and the health of our church body.

**Opening Remarks:** Mark explained zoom etiquette and to please extend grace to our church’s leadership and pastors during this epidemic. Mark thanked everyone for their willingness to lead and serve on the board or committees, those that have stepped down and those willing to step up and serve. He is thankful for all the moving parts in our church. Thank you to Kathy Nelson, Pastor Andrew and Pastor Pete for all their hard work getting the annual reports ready. Referenced back to Pastor Andrew’s sermon from this morning, Romans 8:14-15. Mark stressed the difficult decision people need to make whether to worship in person or online. Mark asks the church, “Where do we as a church go from here?”

**Devotion:** Pastor Andrew gave a devotion titled, “What is Christian Love?”

**Board Secretary's Report:** Annual meeting minutes from 2019 were read by Karen Johnson in Linda Grauer’s absence. No additional corrections, motion made by Eli Paulsrud and 2nd by Tim Petersen. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Doug Goodburn gave the treasurer's report, Doug suggests calling him to ask for questions regarding the budget. The total income for the year was $369, 696.35 showing an increase of almost $70,000 in income from the year prior. This past years’ expense was $34,464.61 and expenses were down $40,000. Overall giving was up. Expenses were from the capital improvement fund. Insurance was up and missionary giving was up. Net change of $25,631.00. General Fund $35,792.56. We have contacted Dessel bookkeeping to outsource some of the payroll and other expenses. We need better details for receipts. Books were audited by Scott Lovell and Eli Paulsrud and Doug thanked them.  Motion by Randy Eaton and a second, by Leigh Anne Oswald, motioned carried.

**New business-Nominations for 2020**

No nominations from the floor will be accepted. Trustees will be the only contested position. Pastor Andrew and Pastor Pete, hand delivered all members of the church absentee ballots. 100% of the positions are accepted and the new trustees will be Kerwin Van Houten and Douglas Goodburn.

**Annual Youth Report: Was given by Pastor Pete Younker.**

Challenging not to meet with people, used Zoom. Thankful for Covid as we were able to reflect and see things in a new way and push the pause button on life. “Year with Jesus” was the curriculum for this year and next year is “Serve with Jesus”.

BIC Graduation and Baptisms as listed in the (Life Events from the Past Year) in the annual report. He discussed the Mission Trip last summer at home and around our community, and other group outings.

2:42 groups, challenging groups to split and make new! We currently have 4 groups going.  Please join Pete in prayer that each family would make discipling their kids a priority as they talk, walk, and live (Deut.6) and that we as a church family would come alongside them.

Senior Pastor report: Pastor Andrew Mahoney, read his annual report. He has completed his first year and they have enjoyed their time at Meriden. He is excited to see our church continue to grow and celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

New Business:

Mission budget-The missionary committee is asking for $28,640.00 per year, and to add the Marcus Food Pantry as another mission field. The Farvers are paid for this coming year but are leaving Africa and taking a church in Newton. Tim and Ann Wester are retiring this year. Any suggestions for new missionaries?  We are giving our missionaries an extra bonus this year. The committee would like to challenge the congregation to increase the giving by 20%. Mark encouraged everyone to try and give more if your heart is lead. Vote on the 2020-2021 Mission's budget of $28,640.00 is m/s/c.

Proposed Amendment to change Constitution-Approve the proposed amendment to change the constitution wording in Article IX from “premillennial” to “glorious”, passed at 93%. Mark was pleased that our church has shown unity in making this decision.

Leigh Anne Oswald spoke at the meeting her concern in women’s roles in leadership in our congregational led church. This did start a conversation that this should be looked at if it is a concern. We need to look at how these roles align with our constitution and the Bible.  Then Carey Ducommun added if it were a possibility to change the constitution, that we should do a microsystem assessment of the whole church before this would take place in case other things need to be changed. Pete and Leigh Anne agreed. Mark also agreed that when the Interim Pastor Barry McCormack was here, we had done an assessment, but nothing further has been done. Mark agreed that we will start this process at the July meeting.

Scott made the motion to end the annual meeting, Kyle, seconded, motion carried.

Pastor Andrew closed the meeting in prayer after the following comments.

Thank you to Pete for passing the ballots out to members’ homes with him, and he also thanked the board. This has been a complicated way to do church, we need peace and prayer.  WE have growing pains and it’s good to grow and an old seed needs watered.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28

Minutes recorded by Board Secretary, Carey Ducommun

2020 Annual meeting minutes were approved on March 22nd, 2021 at the 2021 Annual meeting. m/s/c.