

The annual meeting of the First English Ev. Lutheran Church was held Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall and on Community Zoom. A potluck lunch was enjoyed by all in the fellowship hall. 57 people attended the meeting in-person and five people attended via Zoom, with forty-four voting members in attendance, meeting the quorum requirement of nineteen.

Highlights of the meeting and actions taken include:

election of four new church council members for 2023: Nancy Baden, Kristin Mondy, Benjamin Rode, and LaRu Woody. These new council members will join continuing council members Jerry Don Aguirre, Derek Bridges, Gwen Flory, Todd Jermstad, Mary Lou Larson, Nancy Neuse, and Elizabeth Zimmermann;

Election of two voting members to the 2023 Southwestern Texas Synod assembly: Nancy and Randy Baden;

reviewing staff reports. Bryan Rust invited the participation of the entire congregation in the transition, which will include restarting ministry committees, teams, and taskforces. This work is already underway. We reviewed maintaining our culture of intentional welcome and invitation, as well as listening and encouraging a diversity of voices to be heard. We have a great tradition, and still have ways to grow.

receiving reports on ministry and outreach areas including scouting, book club, our new care team ministry, advocacy for racial justice, Micah 6 ministry, children's ministry, and Prayer Circle. We gave thanks for all who participated in the farewell and send-off for Pastor Michael Coffey on January 15. Fred Woody encouraged our renewed commitment to the FELC Child Development Center, an ongoing ministry of the congregation, operating for 50 years in 2022;

Congregation President Allen Jensen providing an exciting report on our transition ministry and timeline for the next year to 16 months, which includes formation of a transition committee and then a call committee. The office of the bishop has recommended a transitional pastor and the council will be in conversation with that pastor in the near future. The council is committed to regular communication with the whole congregation and our community. There will be several ways to gather the people in this process in the coming months. We are grateful for the skills and commitment of our leaders;

Interim Treasurer Joe Cain reporting that the congregation ended 2022 with a net zero balance, as our surplus was distributed, half to mission support, one-quarter to emergency borrowing fund, and one-quarter to 2022 benevolence recipients Micah 6 Ministries and Frontera Border Ministries. We were able to distribute provisional surplus in the amount of \$32,717.53;

adopting the amended 2023 ministry budget as presented by the council. This budget includes creating an expense line for transfer in the amount of \$10,000 per month to a reserve fund for pastoral and staff compensation and transition expenses. The budget also includes restoring \$9,000 in the fixed budget - \$6,000 for mission support and \$3,000 for benevolence - that will be paid out during the year whether or not we have a provisional surplus. We believe that this fixed budget for these items is feasible because of the success we have had in restoring our savings balance in the Emergency Borrowing Fund. The 2023 budget also provides that we will continue to apply any provisional surplus to additional mission support and benevolence, and to the continued strengthening of the Emergency Borrowing Fund. Lois Holck encouraged us to enhance our stewardship of time and financial commitment to our ministry as an expression of thanksgiving to God;

encouraging everyone to be involved in large and small group meetings and events. Upcoming events include Fastnacht & Talent Show on Tuesday, February 21, Ash Wednesday with two worship services (noon and 7:00 PM), Holy Week with a full complement of worship services and celebrations, and the Annual Chicken BBQ on Saturday evening, April 29;

giving thanks for the service of leaders Allen Jensen (outgoing congregation president), Gwen Flory (serving as financial secretary), Joe Cain (serving as interim treasurer), Teresa Ringness (outgoing council member), and an extra-huge-stupendous thanks to Merrily and Terry Porter for all they do, seen and unseen.