

Congregation Assembly Minutes—Jan 30, 2022

1. Governance Board (GB) President, Donna Dark, opened Congregational Assembly at 4:35pm on Sunday, Jan 30, 2022. Erich Mammen was introduced as the newly appointed Board member, who will finish Mark Middlebush's term until the next election.
2. Elder, Liz DeMik led the opening devotion and prayer.
3. Attendance: 19 attended in person and at least 30 attended online (possible multiples on each zoom call) for a total of at least 49 which does provide a quorum.
4. Minutes from Sept 19, 2021 Congregational Assembly were provided online. Rene Stein moved that minutes be approved. Michael Schaffer seconded the motion; no further discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. Pastor Peter presented his Pastoral Report, an update on our Ministry Action Plan—see separate powerpoint presentation for details. Highlights:

- Originally, HVAC replacement was programmed for Spring 2022 on Open Arms side—holding off because it appears that it can be fixed and work until we are able to provide due diligence on research for new unit. Costs have gone up significantly and ordering a new one will take 6-9 months.
- Hiring in process for Music Director and Accountant, hired new Facilities Manager, Tom Moser, and part time Children's Ministry director, Rachel Clark.
- Continuing to reopen church activities: Confirmation, Youth Group, Worship
- Open Arms: 107 children enrolled, enrollment increasing. Blessed with grants and Payroll Protection Plan which has supported us through the pandemic.
- Puerto Rico Mission Trip happening in March after several COVID postponements.

6. Financial Report (See separate detailed power point)
 - a. Cash on hand as of 31 Dec: \$725,074 compared to 31 Aug: \$687,668
 - b. Mortgage Balance as of 31 Dec: \$1,749,234 compared to 31 Aug: \$1,800,768
 - c. Church financial activity FY 2021-22 Sept-Dec

General Fund Giving: \$ 268,655

Designated fund giving \$ 64,783

Total Giving \$ 333,438

General Fund Expenses \$ 285,799

Designated fund expenses \$ 31,889

Total Expenses \$ 317,688

General Fund Balance \$ -17,144

Designated Fund Balance: \$ 32,894

Total Balance \$ 15,750

d. Open Arms financial activity

Tuition/Contributions \$ 472,923

Open Arms Expenses \$ 449, 635

Open Arms Balance \$ 23,288

7. New Business: Planting for the Future (50th Anniversary Fund) Resolution

- History: The Planting for the Future Fund was established in 2019 as OSLC's 50th Anniversary capital fund campaign to pay for major maintenance and renovation expenses (roof, carpet replacement, HVAC etc) Additionally 10% (tithe) of the money raised in 2019 would be shared with the Southeastern District, who provided the early funding to establish OSLC in Laurel. The goal set for the fund was \$650,000. 317,549 was raised from 2019-2022 and \$31,755 was contributed to the SED. In the last 2 years, this fund was used to replace the flat roofs and the carpeting with new flooring (to be installed in February when materials arrive). Currently \$37,697 remains in the fund. The needs continue for a new HVAC system in Open Arms; a new Van/Bus for Open Arms; live streaming-and sound booth area; Sanctuary painting and renovation. The estimated costs for these are approx. \$350,000 The Governance Board (GB) is providing this motion to reenergize the Planting for the Future Fund to raise money for these items. The GB also feels that the original intent to tithe from this fund to the SED was a time limited event covering the anniversary year. We have continued to tithe monies contributed to this fund in FY 21 and FY22. The GB would like congregational approval to eliminate the tithe from any additional moneys raised. Removing the tithe will allow this fund to grow and continue to fulfill the ever-growing OSLC capital needs. The SED receives a tithe of all our general offerings annually which is in our budget.
- Original Motion: "Whereas the Planting for the Future was collected during the 2019 anniversary year and a tithe of moneys collected was provided to the SED at the end of 2019;

We move that the Planting for the Future Fund be continued indefinitely to raise funds for capital improvements and the original commitment to tithe from that fund to the SED be discontinued for any moneys now raised for that fund. The OSLC tithe of general offerings to the SED will be continued according to our budget process."

- Discussion included question about difference between capital improvement expenses and general fund expenses (large one-time expenditures vs routine expenditures); question if this would be a non-expiring designated fund, if so no need to include word "indefinitely" in motion; and question if the 50th Anniversary Fund had been renamed the Planting for the

Future Fund which was in an earlier resolution and the need to insure that this resolution tracks with the previous one. Agreement was reached to include mention of 50th Anniversary Fund in the resolution.

- Resolution was amended to read, **“Whereas the Planting for the Future Fund (also known as the 50th anniversary fund) was collected during the 2019 anniversary year and a tithe of moneys collected was provided to the SED at the end of 2019;**

We move that the Planting for the Future Fund be continued indefinitely to raise funds for capital improvements and the original commitment to tithe from that fund to the SED be discontinued for any moneys now raised for that fund. The OSLC tithe of general offerings to the SED will be continued according to our budget process.

- Question was called and seconded.
 - Amended motion was seconded by Michael Shaffer and Amended motion was passed unanimously.
8. Next projected Congregational Assembly will be in May as requested at this Assembly.
 9. Pastor Peter closed the Assembly with thanksgiving to God in prayer and we sang the Doxology together.

Minutes prepared by Tina McGuffey, Governance Board Secretary.