

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
Voters Meeting Minutes
05.28.2024

Attendance: 58 (52 voting, six first-time members)

Tom Ruff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Tom Roma opened the meeting with comments on Revelation 14:6 and with prayer.

Attendees reviewed the January 29, 2024, Voters Meeting Minutes.

Tom Ruff noted two corrections to the Minutes:

- Meeting attendance: 70 (64 voting members, six first-time members)
- The Ministry Clarity Process – Correct spelling of Pastor Eric Kennaugh's last name.

Dave Rawlings made the motion to approve the Minutes as corrected. Dick Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

BOD Election – The term of service of BOD members Vern Boehme, Tom Ruff, and Bonnie Schulte ends June 30, 2024. Tom Ruff introduced three candidates nominated to fill the three open BOD positions—Tom Guenzler, Brian Parker and Bonnie Schulte—and asked for a vote of acclamation by voice vote. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report – Carol Waddell presented a financial update as of April 2024, noting ILCS's mortgage loan will be renewed in 2025, revenue compared to budget is up, and expenses compared to budget are below. ILCS's fiscal year ends June 30.

Senior Pastor Update

Jason Auringer commented on the following:

- Acknowledgment of both Vern Boehme and Tom Ruff for their service and leadership as members of the Board of Directors.
- Mission Clarity – LCEF's Eric Kennaugh continues to lead the ILCS team through the ministry clarity process, formulating and finalizing goals for the next one to three years, and adding specific tasks to be accomplished. More information, as part of the full ministry plan, will be presented at the September Voters Meeting.
- ILCS-Wentzville and St. Paul's-New Melle Relationship – St. Paul's-New Melle leadership contacted Immanuel, requesting St. Paul's coming into a deeper relationship with Immanuel. St. Paul's pastor, Maxx Fisher, is awaiting a call to another location, which will also involve ILCS's deaconess, Janie Fisher. Janie will transition out of her ILCS role the end of June/first of July, 2024. As noted in the Mission Clarity process,

Immanuel's junior and senior high youth programs have been lacking; and are top of mind.

Questions from the floor:

Joyce Schroeder asked if Immanuel is asking its members to support St. Paul's-New Melle by attending their worship services.

Dave Rawlings asked about St. Paul's-New Melle having a voice on the ILCS Board.

Irv Jacobs asked about Messiah Lutheran Church's role with St Paul's.

It was noted that Messiah has had no financial input into St. Paul's-New Melle; and, specifically, that St. Paul's has receive no pastoral salary support from either Immanuel or Messiah. Immanuel is described as a better fit for St. Paul's-New Melle.

Dan Ebert asked if St. Paul's is talking merger or possibly a satellite for Immanuel.

Brian Parker asked which church started Immanuel Lutheran Church-Wentzville. It was noted that St. Paul's-New Melle started ILCS as a missions church.

Rick Leitz asked about District input. Rev. Dr. R. *Lee Hagan* and Rev. Peter Kirby are providing District support.

Joyce Schroeder asked what ILCS's pastoral role will be if Pastor Fisher leaves. Both the District and Immanuel are working together to determine interim pastoral support.

BOD and Long-Term Planning – Tom Ruff reported on the following.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School-Wentzville and St. Paul's-New Melle Relationship – At St. Paul's request, members of the ILCS BOD along with pastors Jason Auringer and Tom Roma recently met with St. Paul's leadership at New Melle in what is described as a healthy conversation. St. Paul's is self-sufficient. They are seeking vibrancy and leadership in ministry. At the May 21, 2024, ILCS BOD meeting, the Board gave unanimous consent to engage St. Paul's and determine where to go from here.

Safety/Security Plan – ILCS-Wentzville Board members participated in a presentation regarding church safety, including security issues, first aid, volunteers, and insurance needs.

Long-Term Planning Update:

- Working with an architect on a master plan: Looking at current facilities, what were they intended for, how are they being used now, what are future needs, what are the restraints. Develop plans over the summer months and present a Phase I big picture at the September Voters Meeting. Plans will impact Immanuel's Capital Campaign.
- Sanitation/Sewer Needs: Sewer line project has been put on hold after considering the costs to lay two miles of piping, timing (ILCS is currently not expanding its footprint), and the opportunity of utilities to come further West toward ILCS's campus.

Joel Mueller asked if St. Paul's-New Melle is on a sewer or septic system.

Debbie Anderson stated that St. Paul's is on a sewer system.

Long-Term Financial Planning – Dan Ebert reported on the committee’s recommendation to the BOD that Immanuel extend its Overflowing Capital Campaign one additional year.

- On behalf of the committee, Dan acknowledged the generosity of Immanuel members. He noted that the current mortgage loan matures in one year.
- Given another year, Immanuel will have a better understanding of its needs.
- The committee will send letters to current contributors requesting their financial support for another year.
- A second letter will be sent to new members giving them the opportunity to participate for the next year.
- Evaluate internal capacity following the campaign.

John Waddell made the motion to accept the Long-Term Financial Planning committee’s Capital Campaign proposal. Joel Mueller seconded the motion.

David Rawlings asked about the ratio of those who pledge and those who receive. Carol Waddell shared how giving has exceeded the number of pledges.

Nancy Minton asked where the campaign dollars are held. It was noted that Campaign dollars are held in a restricted account and go to servicing Immanuel’s debt.

Becky Hoskins clarified that the “new money” received is a continuation of the Overflowing Campaign.

Darwin Zimmerman clarified that dollars from the reserve account pay down the mortgage.

Pat Zimmerman asked if dollars paid to mortgage reduction go directly to the mortgage principal. Debbie Anderson confirmed that debt/mortgage reduction contributions go immediately to the principal.

Vi Skillman clarified that the Overflowing Capital Campaign is not part of the fiscal budget.

Tom Modde asked how the mortgage gets paid if the Overflowing Campaign does not continue. Dollars would have to be found somewhere; however, as noted by Pastor Auringer, for the past 15 years, the Capital Campaign has paid the mortgage.

Tom Ruff called the question, moving the motion to a voice vote. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Budget Proposal – Russ Hoppe presented the Proposed Fiscal 2024-2025 budget, pointing out the 9 percent budget increase. Expenses such as insurance (24 percent) and books and supplies are considerably high.

John Waddell made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Dick Schroeder seconded the motion.

Questions from the floor:

Dave Rawlings – Asked for clarification regarding Church Ministry expenses.

John Waddell called the question, moving the motion to a voice vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Tom Ruff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Waddell made the motion to adjourn. Dick Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology.

HANDOUTS:

- Meeting Agenda
- January 29, 2024, Voters Meeting Minutes
- Fiscal 2024-2025 Proposed Budget and Bullet Points
- BOD Candidate Bios