

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School–Wentzville
Voters Meeting Minutes
09.23.2024

Attendance: 51 (44 voting, seven first-time attendees)

Becky Hoskins called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Pastor Jason Auringer opened the meeting with thoughts from Mark 6 on the “Feeding of the 5,000” and with prayer.

ILCSW Board of Directors Chair Becky Hoskins welcomed guest Scott Alexander, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church–New Melle.

Becky Hoskins introduced the Immanuel Lutheran Ministry Leadership Team (MLT), members of the Board of Directors, and members of both the Long-Range Planning and Long-Range Financial Planning committees.

Becky Hoskins acknowledged the success and expressed appreciation of the recent September 15, 2024, outdoor service and picnic celebrating Immanuel’s 150th anniversary.

Becky Hoskins presented the Minutes of the May 28, 2024, Voters Meeting for review and approval. Tom Guenzler made the motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mike Dwyer seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Reports and Updates

Treasurer’s Report – Becky Hoskins spoke to the current status of the 2024-2025 financial budget: July through August 2024 giving is over budgeted giving and church and school expenses continue to be managed effectively, with expenses currently under budget. Carol Waddell stated the first quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year ends September 30, 2024.

Updates

Ministry Clarity Update – Pastor Jason Auringer made comments regarding the pillars identifying ILCSW and the ministry goals as developed through the Ministry Clarity process: Worship, Serve, Learn, and Connect. A second Town Hall meeting will be held in the next month or two to address and add further details, including goals and specific tasks to be accomplished.

Brandon Charter asked how progress will be tracked toward accomplishing ministry goals.

Long-Term Planning Committee Update – Tom Ruff presented information regarding the master planning process. Tom shared that focus is on campus utilization, i.e., looking at what ILCSW has and what is needed, while maintaining flexibility. A Town Hall event is being planned for mid-November 2024 to present big picture/architectural concepts and ranking of priorities.

David Rawlings asked if the master plan involves the campus as identified currently here on Highway N or beyond, e.g., land acquisition. The current plan involves the 17 acres on which ILCSW currently sits.

Karen Sansone asked if, when scheduling Town Hall event(s), it would be possible to involve more people, especially ILCSW younger families, by way of ZOOM meeting technology.

Call Committee Update – Becky Hoskins presented to the voters that at the September 17, 2024, Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted and approved a Call Committee with the intent to establish a third pastor. Board Vice Chair Forrest Van Ness is chairing the Call Committee, with the committee to consist of ILCSW members, along with an Immanuel elder. Goal to extend a call by Spring 2025. Individuals interested in serving should contact Forrest Van Ness.

Regarding calling a third pastor, Les Blalock asked if a budget and job description have been established. Pastor Auringer noted that at the very earliest, a third pastor would be added the beginning of the 2025-2026 budget year. The duties for the position will require a somewhat experienced pastor, and not a seminarian. The Call process will be worked through the District Office, including developing a job description based on what ILCSW needs.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church–New Melle Update – Becky Hoskins noted that she and Russ Hoppe, ILCSW Interim Executive Director, have been working on obtaining legal counsel regarding this potential relationship. The purpose of counsel is to help identify what a joint ministry would look like if ILCSW decides to continue with the process. Becky noted that Board member Brian Parker will serve as the ILCSW liaison between the Immanuel and St. Paul's boards.

New Business

Close Sanctuary Remodel Fund – As both the balcony and sanctuary remodeling projects are completed, Becky Hoskins made the request for a motion to transfer remaining Balcony/Sanctuary Project Funds to the Capital Improvement Fund so that dollars can be used for other purposes (\$71,000).

MOTION: Joel Mueller made the motion to transfer the remaining \$71,000 in Balcony/Sanctuary Project Funds to the Capital Improvement Fund. Tom Ruff seconded the motion. No additional discussion. Motion approved by unanimous vote

Allocation of 2023-2024 Surplus Funds — Becky Hoskins presented the BOD recommendation to distribute \$355,600 in 2023-2024 surplus funds as follows:

- Charitable Giving — \$85,000
 - \$30,000 — Grace Chapel Lutheran School, Bellefontaine Neighbors/North St. Louis County, Missouri
 - \$30,000 — Hearts & Hope for Uganda
 - \$25,000 — Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri
- Leadership Education Advancing Development Initiative (LEAD) — \$10,600
- Capital Improvement and Expansion Fund (Funds to be placed in an interest-bearing account for upcoming campus expansion project) — \$260,000

Mike Fridley asked the location of Grace Chapel Lutheran School. Allison Dolak provided information regarding the school located in North St. Louis County.

David Rawlings asked how Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located in the St. Louis Hyde Park area, was selected. Russ Hoppe spoke to the history and needs of the church.

Becky Hoskins opened up the topic for additional discussion.

Amy Schuldt asked if sufficient dollars are being allocated for human resources/staffing needs, especially for a third pastor.

Karen Sansone asked for clarification regarding the dollars for the LEAD initiative.

MOTION: Carol Waddell made the motion to allocate 2023-2024 surplus funds as recommended by the BOD. Barbara Reitz seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

St. Paul's–New Melle Relationship – Scott Alexander shared thoughts from St. Paul's and the congregation's desire to join in ministry with Immanuel.

Wayne Benne asked about current attendance trends at St. Paul's.

Koenig Cemetery – Russ Hoppe spoke to the Koenig Cemetery property history (located at the corner of Fifth and Walnut streets, Wentzville, Mo.). Russ brought forward the ILCS BOD resolution passed at the September 17, 2024, BOD meeting that ILCSW be charged with creating policies to manage, operate and maintain the Koenig Cemetery.

Becky Hoskins brought forward to the voters the request to pass a resolution directing ILCSW to acquire Koenig Cemetery by filing an adverse possession case.

MOTION: Tom Ruff made the motion directing the acquisition of acquiring Koenig Cemetery as noted above. Gloria Ehll seconded the motion.

Discussion regarding the acquisition, including Nancy Minton inquiring why Immanuel would want to assume the cemetery property.

Gloria Ehll spoke to another similar cemetery property, South Linn Cemetery, which is listed on the Historical Society register.

Les Blalock noted that the yearly maintenance estimate will be an on-going expenditure.

Care for Immanuel's history and many of the original ILCSW members buried in Koenig Cemetery were noted as acquisition priorities.

Becky Hoskins called the question.

Motion was made and seconded approved.

There being no further business, Becky Hoskins asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joel Mueller made the motion to adjourn. Mike Schlipp seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with Pastor Roma leading the group in singing the Doxology.

HANDOUTS:

- Meeting Agenda
- May 24, 2024, Voters Meeting Minutes