

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter

November 4, 2018

- I. **Call to Order:** The Annual Meeting of the congregation of The Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter was called to order at approximately 9:15 a.m., November 4, 2018 in Hart Fellowship Hall, with approximately 85 persons in attendance. The meeting was convened by the Rev. Donald Burggraf, pastoral associate, with a prayer led by the Rev. Stewart Lucas.
- II. **Election of Secretary:** Jeff Valentine was elected to serve as Secretary for the meeting.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2018 Annual Meeting of the Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft and the August 26, 2018 Special Congregational Meeting of the then-Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft and the then-Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter. **Carried, without amendment**
- IV. **Election of Church Council:** Nine members in good standing were nominated as a slate to serve on the newly constituted Church Council of the combined church. They were: Susan Bollinger, Dottie Doepke, Justin Dowding, Sue Fowler, John Nefferdorf, Dick Perry, Kari Ardolino Rudgers, Mary B. Schwartz and Ellie Sharkey. The nominees were voted on as a single slate. **The slate was elected by voice affirmation**
- V. **Formal Pastoral Call:** On behalf of the former Episcopal Vestry and Lutheran Council, Jeff Valentine presented a recommendation that the Rev. Stewart Lucas be formally called as Pastor of the federated Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter. **Carried, by voice affirmation**
- VI. **Budget:** A proposed 2019 budget for the combined church was presented for discussion. The budget projected total income of \$366,096 and operating expenses of \$385,293, for a projected deficit of \$19,197. It was noted that a separate budget applies to operations at the adjacent office building at 6112 York Road, including the offices of State Farm Insurance and the Cedarcroft Center. It was further noted that, despite projected deficit budgets approved for the previous two years, the church had closed its books without a deficit in both years and without having to use any earnings from the church's endowment. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 budget. **Carried, by voice affirmation**
- VII. **Appreciation:** Pastor Stewart extended the congregation's appreciation to the following members stepping down from the former Vestry and Council: Craig Hart, Nedra Cook, Penny Patschke, Mona Nefferdorf, Doris Meads, Lee Smith, Robert Shindle and Jeff Valentine. It was noted that Mr. Hart, who was in the hospital, would serve in the role of Property Manager for the church and adjacent buildings. Gifts were distributed to the departing Vestry-Council members. Pastor Stewart then led a brief service of installation for the newly elected Church Council.
- VIII. **Lutherpalian Activities:** Pastor Stewart said our church could help guide other churches that might be contemplating federating Episcopal-Lutheran denominations. He said he participates in monthly "Zoom" meetings of clergy of other combined congregations. He noted that a Charter had been developed for use as a model for other churches.
- IX. **Adjournment:** Margaret Dowding, asked Deacon Linda Hollis to offer a prayer of thanksgiving over Pastor Stewart. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

## 2019 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### **FEBRUARY:**

Diocesan Convention/Synod Assembly Representatives: Sue Fowler volunteered, and Doug Vaughn will be asked, to represent us at the Episcopal Diocesan Convention, May 10-11 at Turf Valley. Dick Perry volunteered, and Judy Jones will be asked, to represent us at the Lutheran Synod Assembly, May 30-June 1 in Hunt Valley.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is denying LGBTQ rights across the Church. Pastor Stewart has posted a protest to Episcopal Café, which he will email to Council members.

### **APRIL:**

Mission/Vision Statement: This statement was where we landed at the end of our March 18 work session. Pr. Stewart shared the draft with staff, who offered suggestions. The Council made final adjustments and decided we should use this final version:

We are a diverse and non-judgmental community, grounded in the unconditional love of God.

We live out our faith by serving our neighbors and partnering with others to change the world.

We believe Jesus inspires our worship, our service, and our joy.

Clergy Renewal Grant: The grant is for up to \$050,000 from the Eli Lilly Foundation ... and Pr. Stewart would be away May-July 2020. The award would include funding for clergy events and recreational time away. It can also help support honoraria and expenses for guest pastors, and some of it could also be used to have Counselor Richard Warren come back to facilitate a follow-up congregational gifts/visioning session.

Website Update: Pr. Stewart added a section on "Becoming Lutherpalians," which documents the journey of the combining of the two congregations. Kari Rudgers and Pr. Stewart are working on a new website for the church and the 6112 York Road property.

### **MAY:**

LEAD: Cindy VanVliet, Associate for Community for the DE-MD Synod, presented the purpose and function of LEAD (Living Everyday As Disciples). Basically, various ELCA Synods became concerned about fall-offs in churches and, after a seven-year discernment process, in 2012 formed LEAD and chose as its guideline Mark 12:28-31, the Great Commandment. LEAD is a not-for-profit initiative for which the DE-MD Synod is a "guinea pig" with discipleship and leader-ship-forming as its ultimate goal over a three-year period. [Anyone with questions about LEAD may speak with Barbara Herron or Kari Rudgers, co-chairs.]

Diocesan Convention: Neal Baroody was named Diocesan Chancellor. An important resolution about reparations was passed, which will be discussed at future Forums on Faith and other venues in our congregation and around the Diocese and Synod.

### **JUNE:**

Synod Assembly: Resolutions concerning inclusivity, gun control, and working with legislators were passed. Nancy Kraft and Pr. Stewart co-sponsored a new inclusion resolution. Pr. Stewart gave Council a history of the thought process behind it. It was adopted as presented for now; however, the final wording could change.

LEAD Process: Pr. Stewart is working to assemble a team, perhaps to start in August.

## JULY:

Racial Reconciliation: There was discussion of our role in society and how to get the word out about it. We also discussed how we as Lutherpalians can reach into our neighborhood, city, state, and beyond. Our own events are a start, but we need to reach deeper. We belong to the York Road Partnership and that participation can lead us further into being more active.

Sabbatical: Pr. Stewart did not receive the Lilly grant but still wants to take a sabbatical.

## SEPTEMBER:

Sabbatical: Pr. Stewart will take three months—January-March—which is a quiet time in our church year. A Pastoral Care team led by Pr. Don will be formed to address issues as they arise. Bishop Gohl will preach February 23, and other guest preachers will be invited. If needed, Parish Administrator Carolyn Surrick can come in on Sunday mornings. **The motion was made, seconded and carried that Nativity and Holy Comforter should approve Pastor Stewart's proposed sabbatical and apply for a grant from Lutheran Home and Hospital for \$7,500. The Church Council also agrees to find funds to increase compensation for Pr. Don and Carolyn during this time, as well as honoraria for guest preachers.**

## OCTOBER:

Council Nominations: **The Council moved and approved forwarding to the congregation at the November 17 Annual Meeting the nominations of Amanda Eversley and Judy Jones for election to the Church Council.**

ELCA Meeting in Chicago: Pr. Stewart's attendance was paid for by both the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese. The Concordat--written by high-level theologians with no thought of current situations such as the affiliation of different-denomination churches or the lack of clergy--will be 20 years old in January. There is a question of how and where to apply terms such as "federation" and/or "union," and the problem will be discussed until it can be resolved. Baltimore will host this meeting in 2020.

INCOME		2019	2020
41000 · Pledges and Offerings	\$	224,500.00	\$ 228,500.00
41240 · Other Flowers, Fuel Inc, 6112 York Road Insur. Reim.	\$	8,000.00	\$ 5,500.00
41300 · Fund Raising	\$	6,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
41500 · Investment Income	\$	34,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
41550 · Music Fund	\$	5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
41700 · Building Use	\$	83,596.00	\$ 86,343.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	361,596.00	<b>\$372,343.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
60200 · Worship & Music	\$	37,040.00	\$ 38,219.50
60800 · Building and Grounds	\$	80,400.00	\$ 81,900.00
61400 · Christian Education	\$	2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
62400 · Diocese & Synod Giving	\$	36,364.00	\$ 31,665.00
63800 · Fellowship	\$	3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
65200 · Outreach	\$	8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
68100 · Administration	\$	85,855.00	\$ 90,641.40
69000 · Clergy	\$	134,634.00	\$ 136,620.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$	388,293.00	<b>\$ 393,045.90</b>
Net Income	\$	(26,697.00)	<b>\$ (20,702.90)</b>

**THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY AND HOLY COMFORTER**  
**FINANCE TEAM REPORT TO NOVEMBER 17, 2019 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Finance Team is a standing committee of the Church Council. The Finance Team assists the Treasurer, providing oversight for all money matters of the Church, including investments, gifts, and managing the Church's endowment fund(s). This Team is responsible for formulating overall Church policies governing its investments, endowment fund(s), and acceptance of gifts, subject to approval by the Council, and establishing investment guidelines in furtherance of those policies. The Team also monitors the management of the overall portfolio for compliance with investment policies and guidelines and for meeting financial objectives over time.

The Team shall be comprised of the Pastor/President, Vice President and Treasurer, as *ex officio* members, and Church members in good standing as appointed by the Pastor/President who are generally knowledgeable on investment and financial matters. The Pastor/President shall appoint the chair from among the members of the Team and shall cast a vote only in the case of a tie.

The present members of the Team are: Susan Bollinger, Justin Dowding, Richard Perry, T. Stewart Lucas+, Jeffery W. Valentine, and Douglas E. Vaughan

On behalf of the Team, the Treasurer shall report quarterly to the Council during a scheduled Council meeting, or as requested by the Council. The report shall review investment performance against Investment Policy objectives, including actual returns versus the Church's return objective.

Our investments have grown from a December 31, 2019 total of \$849,744.39 to an October 31, 2019 total of \$972,114.97. We have been able to reinvest all of our earned interest and dividend income and we have not drawn any funds from our endowment.

As of October 31, 2019 the Parish held the following investments at Vanguard:

LifeStrategy Moderate Growth	\$404,448.06
Wellesley Income Admiral	\$418,551.24
World FTSE Social Index	\$108,268.29
Prime Money Market Fund	<u>\$40,847.38</u>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$972,114.97</b>

**Asset Mix:**

<b>Market Value</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Market %</b>
Equities	\$503,070.58	51.75%
Fixed Income	\$400,976.97	41.25%
Short Term Reserves	\$ 57,622.53	6.96%
Other	<u>\$444.89</u>	<u>0.04%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$972,114.97</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Submitted by: Douglas E. Vaughan, Chair Finance Team