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## Westwood Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Minutes February 10, 2019

**Attending:** 217 voting members attended between the 9:45 and the 11:45 meetings. Church Council President Karoline Pierson reported that there was a quorum (at least 100 members present) and called the meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer:** Council President Karoline Pierson started the meeting at 9:50 AM by welcoming those present and Pastor Miriam Roberts-Samuelsen led an opening prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** Council Secretary Wanda Nightengale addressed the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Congregation, copies of which were provided within the Annual Report to meeting participants. She asked if attendees would like the minutes to be read aloud or had any corrections. There were no such requests or corrections noted. President Pierson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion was passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- **Previous Year Financial Report**

Treasurer James Behnke thanked the congregation for their faithful stewardship in supporting God's mission at Westwood. He then referred to the Treasurer's Report found in the 2018 Annual Report which was made available to participants. James provided a brief overview of the report, pointing out that the Town Meeting had been held the previous Sunday where Q & A and discussion took place. He asked for a motion to approve the report. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

- **Current Year Proposed Budget**

President Pierson introduced Dave Hill, Chair of the Financial Management Advisory Group. Dave highlighted key points of the 2019 budget. After reviewing the budget, President Pierson asked for a motion to approve the budget. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Nominations Report and Elections:**

Phil Coen-Pesch, Nominations Team member, thanked members of the committee and presented the following slate of candidates for the Church Council and Nominations Team:

- **Officers and Council:** President Elect (2-year term): Sara Moran
- **Council Members-at-Large:** (3-year term): Dan Aune, David Frank
- **Nominations Team:** (for 1<sup>st</sup> of 2-yr term): Hugh Mattson, Heidi Thompson, Steven Seehusen
- **Re-elect Members for 2<sup>nd</sup> Year:** Karin Renier, Jane Severson Kelly, Phil Coen Pesch
- **Audit Team:** Jared Settingsgard, Brandon Rosenthal

Phil moved that "the slate of nominees as presented by the Nominations Team be accepted and the individuals on that slate be elected to the positions indicated and for the terms stated".

President Pierson asked if there were any nominations from the floor for these positions. Hearing none, she declared the nominations closed and asked for approval. The motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

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### **“God Sized Vision”:**

President-Elect Chris Hentges described Westwood's broad visions which include “hands in”...taking care of our house, followed by “hands out”...moving forward to help address community needs with Westwood's leadership, resources and care.

### **“All Are Welcome” Capital Appeal:**

Pastor Tania gave a detailed report on the construction and remodeling plans of the Westwood building. The changes will address issues of accessibility, security, safety, and sustainability. Construction will begin in May 2019, on the \$1.5 million project. Funds are already being raised for the “All Are Welcome” appeal, with official pledging to begin in May.

### **Vote on Short Term Loan:**

James Behnke described the terms of the proposed loan. Council members distributed ballots to each member attending. Voting followed and ballots were collected or deposited in ballot boxes.

### **“Good Courage Appeal”:**

Pastor Jason presented a description of how this large vision has developed in the past 2 years by researching the needs of our community. City and school leaders have been consulted and information compiled to assess how needs might be met. The results have revealed that the needs are great for affordable housing and childcare. Conversation continues to determine which ideas may lead to Westwood's partnership with other non-profits to address these issues.

### **Foundation Report:**

Foundation President Marcy Yarger described the work of the Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation. It continues to thrive, grow and support Westwood and its many programs through gifts and grants. The Foundation passed the million dollar mark this year as they celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Foundation Annual Report was made available.

### **Thank You from the Floor:**

A member from the floor thanked out-going President Karoline Pierson and others who have been serving on council and teams.

### **New Business:**

President Pierson thanked outgoing Council members. She then asked whether there was any further new business, comments or discussion items. Hearing none, she announced that the session would be continued following the 10:45 service to include members who worship at the later service.

### **Prayer of Good Courage:** All attendees

Ballots were counted by the Executive Committee after the meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM, and the vote was 216 in favor of the short-term construction loan, 1 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,  
+ Wanda Nightengale, Council Secretary