

Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2017

1. Howard Hoff, Chair of Council, welcomed all to the meeting and opened with prayer.
2. The meeting minutes from the February 9, 2016 Congregational Meetings were provided to the members attending. Motion to accept the minutes as written was seconded and approved.
3. The following were introduced as candidates for the office of elder: *Jonathan Bode, Todd Buikema, Rick Bulthuis, Dave De Haan, Tom Helmus, Jack Swierenga, Dave Van Kampen, and John Zeilstra.*
4. The following were introduced as candidates for the office of deacon: *Rick Brown, Angela Buikema, Jeff Byma, Steve Corrigan, Doug Slinkman, Jr., Dave Thomas, Christopher Valdez, and Nancy Van Beek.*
5. The ballots were distributed and members of the congregation voted. A number of current Elders and Deacons were called upon to collect and count the ballots.
6. Ministry Reports
 - a) SLT Chairman's Report (Dave Zeilstra)
 - i. Parking Lot- Construction will be complete in Spring of 2017, and will add 105 new parking spaces. The current expectation is to draw approximately \$105k from ECRC's line of credit to cover the expenses that exceed designated gifts already received.
 - ii. Covenant Education Plan- The CEP will not change for the 2017/18 school year, although caps will be adjusted based on tuition increases. As the CEP underwent a major revision for 2016/17, the impact on enrollment as compared to 2015/16 was reviewed. It was highlighted that changes in enrollment for financial reasons were very minor.
 - iii. Pastoral Search Process- The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will meet next week and expects to approve people to serve on the Search Committee. The committee will begin the process of evaluating ECRC's needs, and may decide to hire a search consultant. The Search Committee will meet with Gregg DeMey to discuss his level of interest in the Lead Pastor role, but regardless of the outcome of those discussions there will need to be a search for an additional pastor.
 - b) Associate Pastor & Director of Worship: Rev provided a verbal update using Greg DeMey's notes because Gregg was out of town and unable to attend. Topics included remarks on personal challenges with family illness, his sabbatical, adjustment of the church calendar to match local school calendars, and initiation of discussions on creating a single Sunday morning worship style.
 - c) Lead Pastor: Rev provided a verbal report including the following topics: The ECRC staff is working well together, which has been enhanced by consolidating staff into primarily full-time positions and focusing on team-building activities such as periodic retreats. ECRC's ministries are active and growing, with several ministries struggling with capacity (which is a great problem!). It was also noted that Junior High and Senior High groups now meet weekly, the care department is filling a significant need, and new ministries such as Grief Share are going well.
7. Report from Elders
Rev. Semeyn, Chair of the Elders, provided a verbal report. He discussed the Section Leader program, which is designed to create community, and the elders' collaboration with that initiative. The elders have discussed policy on homosexuality and agreed that

ECRC will adopt the denomination's position. The elders have also been discussing worship style, which has raised questions on overall unity within the congregation; discussions on these topics are ongoing. Lastly, Rev thanked the four retiring elders, who are Al Heerema, Howard Hoff, Herm Tammeling and Mac Wiener.

8. Report from Deacons
Eric Anderson, Chair of the Deacons, provided a verbal report. The deacons have served the needs of congregation in 2016, focusing on ministry, discernment and stewardship. Highlights of the year include assisting the deaconesses in their annual brunch event and visiting widows and widowers during the Christmas season. Eric also mentioned Servants on Standby, which is a great opportunity to volunteer and meet the tangible needs of the congregation. Lastly, Eric thanked the four retiring deacons: Deb Boomsma, Ted Feenstra, Andy Staes and Ron Tazelaar.
9. Presentation of the Budget (Dave DeGroot)
 - a) 2016 EMF Results (2016 Income Statement): Receipts were \$185k below budget, but CEP expenses were \$100k lower than budgeted and expenditures in other areas were \$40k lower than budgeted. The net deficit for EMF in 2016 was approximately \$35k. The generosity of the congregation was recognized, with total giving in 2016 (including the Consecrated Campaign) of \$4.1M.
 - b) Financial Position of ECRC
 - i. Balance Sheet as of 31-Dec-2016: Cash position for ECRC was approximately \$608k at the end of 2015, and \$464k at the end of 2016. The majority of the difference resulted from paying down the line of credit. Apart from that single factor, there was effectively no change from 2015 to 2016.
 - ii. Long Term Debt: The significant debt reduction from 2009 (with \$11.7M bank debt and associated \$929k annual debt service) to the end of 2016 (with \$4M bank debt and associated \$368k annual debt service) was highlighted.
 - c) Factors Which Shaped the 2017 Budget: Six key factors which impacted the formation of the 2017 budget were highlighted:
 - i. A modified CEP budget based on last year's results
 - ii. Reduced debt service
 - iii. Holding Denominational Ministry Shares flat
 - iv. Staffing decisions
 - v. Formation of a facilities capital fund
 - vi. Increased investment in ministries and new operations expenses
 - d) The proposed 2017 EMF budget was presented.
 - e) A motion was made and supported to approve the budget as presented. The motion was approved.
10. Lots were drawn and *Rick Bulthuis, Dave DeHaan, Jack Swierenga* and *Dave Van Kampen* were selected as new elders for a 3-year term..
11. Lots were drawn and *Angela Buikema, Steve Corrigan, Doug Slinkman Jr.* and *Christopher Valdez* were selected as new deacons for a 3-year term.
12. Howard Hoff closed the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by Bill Terpstra, Clerk