

Highlights from the Congregational Voting Results Meeting February 21, 2021

The results of the vote for the Constitutional Amendment, Bylaws, Synod delegates and 2021 Budget were **84 yes, 3 abstentions, 0 no.**

Thanks be to God for this vote to move forward!

Closing Remarks by President, Sue Carlson

This past year of 2020 was ridiculously challenging. We went from a joyful meeting of encouragement last February to a pandemic, political unrest, racial tensions, deaths of beloved members of our congregation and families to name the big ones. Some have lost employment, or life is just different with kids at home for school and other factors. As a church, we miss seeing each other and worshipping and volunteering together. But let us use this time of quiet to reflect on what we have done—a Ministry Site profile group that began and finished so that we could move ahead with a pastoral call. A Call committee, that is now working to bring that pastor to us. Increased attendance in Bible Study, meetings by zoom and pastoral care and Stephen ministers keeping in touch with those in need of comfort.

Our focus in the VDA process is inclusion of all, and other values that focus on collaboration between groups. In 2021 as we slowly open back up to in-person gathering, we will not see everything the same as before. Let us be resilient to change and challenge ourselves to volunteer where we are passionate for the good of our church and our neighbors local and worldwide.

I now want to take a few minutes to thank all of you that have attended and voted at this meeting. These zoom meetings are more complicated and yet so necessary. The council and staff are encouraged by your continued offerings and participation through all zoom meetings. We know we will be able to hit the ground running once we can gather in-person again.

Now some individual thank yous: the Tech team - Joe Jeske, Cliff Bronson, Clint Buetow, Andy and Michael Reay, Chris Morris, Ron Collins and Carl Setzer - have taken a simple recording to a professional recording. Last week as they prepared a quickly put together recording during the snow, meant many extra hours to make our worship look seamless. An extra shout out-to Carl and son Braeden for your recording work!

I also want to thank our staff. Debbie Jeske has taken on many of Josh's tasks while he has been on paternity leave. This has increased her work load substantially and yet it has all been done well.

Don, June, Paul and Kelly have all made the most of this pandemic time and kept us safe and still doing the business of the church.

David Horton, we are thankful for his leadership in worship in both planning and music.

Pastor Hector has almost completed 2 months of solo pastoring. Even though he has stepped back on some meetings, he has continued to give us a forward-looking direction and worship that is meaningful.

Also, our school directors-Kris Dudak has now opened the preschool to a guideline amount of children. Nanette Erban has kept our Childcare Development Center open first to essential workers' children and now to those that have also gone back to work. Both of our schools play an important part in our community.

And lastly, to the Council-your thoughtful concerns and discussions around budget prep, and other business is sometimes unrewarded but so essential for the continued life of this church. I thank you for your open-mindedness and volunteer time in this endeavor. Welcome shadowing council that attended their first meeting last Thursday!

The meeting was adjourned after we joined in a song verse we read together.

Sue Carlson, Council President