**40th Annual Congregational Meeting**

**January 31, 2021**

The meeting was opened by President Russ Senti with a welcome at 10:41 AM. Secretary Steve Beyer announced there was a quorum in attendance with over 10 members using Zoom.

Pastor Brian Deckinger gave an opening prayer. President Senti then introduced the meeting's agenda. Peg Swavely moved to approve the agenda with Tommy cook seconding the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Paragraph secretary Steve buyer was asked to go over the last two congregational meetings minutes, which were emailed to all members. Chris buyer moved to accept the minutes as presented and Judy Cargill seconded. The minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

Secretary Beyer then gave a report from the Nominating Committee. He gave thanks to the 6 members (Peg Swavely, Sharon Sledge, Susan Hinson, Pam Stringer, Randy Gray and Steve Beyer) who worked hard for several weeks with prayer to come up with one candidate for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Secretary positions. Tim Trautman and Kasey Vuong were chosen as nominees, respectively. Both the CFO and the Secretary positions are for a two-year term ending in January 2023.

President Senti asked for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Pastor Deckinger suggested that since there was only one candidate for each position that we elect each candidate by acclamation. Tommy Cook moved that we accept Tim Trautman for CFO by acclamation. Dan Cargill seconded. It passed unanimously. We congratulated Tim Trautman as the new CFO for Atascocita Lutheran Church (ALC).

It was then moved by Lori McDonald to accept Kasey Vuong as the new Secretary of ALC for a two-year term by acclamation. Ellen Poxen seconded. It also passed unanimously to accept Kasey Vuong as the new secretary of ALC. We congratulated Kasey Vuong as the new Secretary for ALC.

Next, Vice President Renee Wallace gave highlights on reports from various committees/ministries at ALC. Leaders at ALC had submitted 28 pages from the 2020 year in review. President Senti acknowledged 58 volunteers that he had noted that participated in various groups/ministries during the 2020 church year.

CFO Sharon Sledge then began her financial report and 2021 budget presentation. She first recognized Fred Swavely who does so much in paying bills and assessing the day-to-day finances at ALC. Sharon said she was blessed to do her job with 3 different pastors and 3 different church presidents. She acknowledged the many members that have given of their time and money and have come through when ALC needed emergency funds or work. She said that God had blessed our church greatly in the past year with money coming into the Treasury from outside sources.

ALC has brought in over $200,000 during the difficult pandemic year of 2020, although we had several months of not meeting our financial giving obligations. Highlights of 2020 included the fact that contributions through Tithtly.com have increased 400% over 2019. Spending was down by approximately 1.5%. Also, our governmental PPP loan of about $27,500 was forgiven.

Sid nice helped to negotiate the MUD easement compensation from initially $40,000 two $90,000 for ALC. Members in 2020 donated about $15,000 worth of non-offering plate giving in gifts and services. We spent less than we collected but not from the general offering. Our mortgage obligations have decreased from about $962,000 owed to about $388,000 in the past four years.

This amounted to a decrease of our mortgage payment from $6600 per month to $2971.00 per month. In the process we have gone from about 5 acres in property to about 3.7 acres and have profited about $700,000.

The budget that CFO Sledge proposed is a decrease from $250,578 in 2020 to $246,870 in 2021.

Due to negotiations by President Senti we reduced our operating cost several percentage points. We also cut salaries for Music Director Dan Wright and Office Secretary Donna Askew by cutting their work hours by 5 hours per week. There was also no HAAM and Family Promise allocations included in the 2021 budget.

CFO sledge reminded that our benefactor is the Lord. We should appeal to people and ask them if they know Christ. She spent several minutes giving a heartfelt testimonial and reflecting on what our purpose at ALC truly should be.

There was an appeal for questions regarding the budget. CFO Sledge then made the motion to accept the proposed 2021 budget as presented. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

The next item was to address 2 capital projects for ALC. The first was to approve $4000 by ALC members to improve the outdoor lighting on the property. Secretary Beyer explained there were two bids after reaching out to three electrical contractors. Discussion ensued. A motion was made and seconded that $4,000 of ALC's funds could be used to improve the outside lighting. This would be above, and beyond only private donations made earmarked for this project. The motion passed unanimously.

The second capital improvement project was to clean up the exterior of the building (mold and residue) and apply a sealant. Dave Berthold was asked to give details to the proposal. Discussion ensued. Randy Gray said he thought a biochemical application to get rid of the mold would be better than a pressure washing technique. Dave Berthold said they would look into that. Sharon Sledge moved to allow that $5,600 of ALC funds could be utilized to clean the outside of ALC's structure. Ellen poxen seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed with minor dissension.

Peg Swavely then acknowledged Dave Berthold and his granddaughter for their work on the front of the church to create better curb appeal.

CFO Sharon Sledge said on January 17, 2021 that we had applied for another PPP loan of $25,000 and on January 28, 2021 the loan was approved.

Randy Gray asked, due to the expansion of FM 1960, if the ALC sign would have to be taken down. President Senti said he would look into that.

President Senti thanked Fred Swavely and Sharon Sledge for all the work both had done on the finances of ALC.

President Senti then presented the focus/goals for ALC.

Briefly he presented the three objectives for 2021 - 2022 which included:

* Enhance Worship and Music Experience
* Expand Outreach and Care Experiences
* Develop New Interest Groups

Laurie McDonald then asked where our new members would come from. Pastor Deckinger answered. He said in the future we will have a hybrid church of online and in person worship and that church attendance is not a total measure of success.

President Senti stated that we need two people (one male and one female) to attend the online Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly on May 20-21, 2021.

President Senti wanted to meet with the Stewardship Committee after the congregational meeting was over. Also, a small refrigerator was found upstairs and if anyone wanted it, they could have it. President Senti thanked everyone for making his first year an easy one.

Pastor Deckinger then installed, with scripture, the leadership team members for the 2021 year. This included President Russ Senti, Vice President Renee Wallace, CFO Tim Trautman and Secretary Kasey Vuong.

President Senti then thanked outgoing leadership team members Sharon Sledge and Steve Beyer for all their hard work. Wooden Crosses would be arriving soon as gifts.

Pastor Deckinger closed with prayer.

Pastor Deckinger moved to adjourn and Secretary Beyer seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously at 12:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Beyer, Secretary