

# **Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bloomfield**

## **Annual General Meeting - Minutes**

### **7 April 2024**

Welcome by Peter Spragg, Senior Pastor. He read from Hebrews 10, and he focused on how we need to “meet and encourage, and spur each other onto good deeds”. Peter prayed for meeting. Dan Dayton, Worship Pastor, led gathering in singing of hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness. Herman Prinzen, Chair of the Board of Elders, read too from Hebrews 10; “encourage one another as the day approaches”. He said that everyone in the church has something to give, to receive blessings and to bless others. Herman opened the meeting in prayer.

#### **Requirement for Quorum was met.**

Benjamin Ens called for a **Motion to amend the Agenda** to include the approving of the agenda and the Approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes, seconded by Donna Rodgers. Motion carried.

Peter asked for approval of the Agenda. Membership Approved.

Peter asked for approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes. Membership Approved.

#### **Financial Report of the Auditor; Eric Reynolds Chartered Accountants;**

Mr. Reynolds gave a verbal overview of the report. Emmanuel ended the year with \$53,000 total income. Call was given for any questions from membership. Question arose from Lynn Taylor about a specific tax credit the church might be able to apply for. Mr. Reynolds answered that there was not credit for the church, that the specific credit was a personal credit. No further questions were asked.

**Motion to Accept the Auditor’s Report**, by Peter Spragg, the membership accepted and approved.

**Motion to Appoint Reynolds & Cantelo CPA Professional Corporation as Auditor for 2024**, by Benjamin Ens, seconded by Lisa Peeling, Motion Carried.

Treasurer’s Report & Presentation of 2024 Budget by Peter Spragg. Peter informed the congregation that John Uings had stepped down as Treasurer, and that the congregation would vote on the new Treasurer in this meeting. Peter asked the congregation to express thanks to John for the work he did in updated

our procedures around our financial governance. He also singled out Doreen Kuipers, bookkeeper, as doing a remarkable job managing our finances throughout the year.

We receive funds by cheque and cash, through our debit machine, through e-transfer, and from Canada Helps. Lynn Taylor had asked what it cost for these various forms of giving. Cheques, cash, and e-transfers do not have any shown cost to the church. Debit costs us about \$60 a month. Canada Helps costs between 3 and 4.9 percent. Lynn thought it best all to be aware of these costs.

Questions from Fran Taylor (funeral meals), Bob Burkinshaw (Celebrate Recovery). And Larry Dayton (men's ministry) raised question about the ministries they were involved in and appearances of cost without revenues received. The answer was provided that many of these funds, mostly cash, some in cheques were received, but there is not a clear way of showing these as they go into total monies received. Efforts to show what funds come in for specific events are sometimes left unshown. Attempts to rectify this, within reason to bookkeeping practices will be done in future.

Payroll had changed from previous budget because we hired a summer student for a program, but costs were largely offset by exterior program. Question of cost of cleaning supplies was answered. Services for cleaning the church are now being provided by Paul Quaiff for upstairs and Amy Corbin for the basement. Dan Dayton asked to defend spending overages a youth program shows as over budget. It was "snow camp" that increase the youth budget, but greater givings were received directly to support youth to attend. Pinecrest Housing is not budgeted for giving this year as they do not have Charitable Status from the CRA yet.

Benjamin Ens proposed the **motion for the membership to accept the financial report for 2023 and the proposed budget for 2024**, seconded by Dawn Kerr. Motion Carried.

Peter Spragg called for and **motioned that Ken Conley, as recommended by the Board to the role of Treasurer of Emmanuel Baptist Church**. Motion was seconded by Larry Dayton. Motion Carried.

Prayer time, and a brief intermission was taken. Hymn "Faithful One" was sung by the membership.

Peter spoke to the current Board of Elders. With John's stepping down from Board we currently have four elders. We can operate with three as minimum. We also need to add more Deacons to the leadership. A new Elder will be

presented and Deacons at the congregational meeting in June. Mia Lane asked what Peter's role was. Peter explained that he is a non-voting participant on the Board of Elders. He is hired by the Board to manage the church, and lead its spiritual growth.

Peter proposed the motion that Herman Prinzen be appointed to a new three year term on the Board of Elders, Carol Pierce seconded. Motion Carried.

Peter and Rachel Conley, Congregational Care, led open ideas by the members. Could we take on the annual "Community Christmas Dinner", previously lead by other church groups in The County. It was widely supported by membership to pursue. Could we arrange for sign language at every Sunday service. The answer was we could try, but acknowledged when we have received this support it was provided by members from other churches, and only came to special events we held. Could we advertise better for tourists? This was being done through flyers with the Ministerial Association. Could we host outdoor services? This was not dismissed, but leadership would consider this.

Children's Ministry presentation by Shawn Hipper and Audreanna Prinzen. Audreanna has been providing leadership for Sunday School under a term contract coming to end in May 2024. She will be taking a step back for family reasons. We started programing at both morning services starting in September because of new volunteers. Security and Plan to Protect is implemented and we now have Melony Regan certified to train Plan to Protect for our church. Mid-week programing, Awana was going since January. We need more volunteers for kid's programs.

Report on maintenance and capital upgrades was led by Paul Robinson, Vice Chair of the Board of Elders. Last year we did a lot of painting, built a closet in Shawn's office, installed "panic buttons", upgrades to east and west entrances. The "panic buttons" we placed in spots known to some to alert the police in any instance of personal harm in the building that would necessitate immediately notifying the police. Carpets in library and nursery were upgraded. This year we need a new refrigerator, ceilings and lighting in the library, ramp upgrades for the entrances, and we need an exit from the basement on the east side. This would create a quick exit point from Sunday School rooms away from the furnace. This idea was further supported by Ed Courneyea. A question arose about expanding parking. The answer given is that we are landlocked, and the farm to the north is not able to sell us further property.

Rachel explained that we want to move away from "Shalem" for provided mental health and counselling services. She provided the understanding that we are not

fulfilling our mandate to take care of the spiritual wellbeing of our church community. That church people need to engage with us. The program, that we will manage to oversee will place Heather Prinzen as our in-take call receiver. We will then engage with our own, chosen therapists that we have vetted to assure they are in line with our doctrinal beliefs.

Peter asked for the **motion to “Approve the actions and decisions of the Board since the 2023 Annual General Meeting”**. Motion by Bob Scrivens, seconded by Nancy Arthur. Motion Passed.

The membership agreed to adjourn the 2024 meeting and Peter lead the group in prayer.