

**SS PETER & PAUL LUTHERAN
HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN**

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING 10-5-14

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Janet Turpening. A signup sheet was passed around. She acknowledged the presence of the New Members class. Pastor Gehrke opened the meeting with prayer.

Agenda items were as follows:

1. North Wisconsin District Circuit Visitor (formerly known as the Circuit Counselor) position is in need of a replacement, as Pastor Paul Kelto, of Sion Lutheran in Chatham, has retired from that position in our Circuit. Pastor Chad Ott, of Redeemer Lutheran in Marquette, has indicated an interest in filling it. District requires each congregation in our Circuit to provide input into this matter. It was moved by Gary Worrall, seconded by Lorna Kaspala, that we support Pastor Ott taking over as Circuit Visitor; all in favor.
2. Pastor Gehrke informed us that we will be needing a Lay Delegate from our church for next summer's NWD Convention. This will be addressed later.
3. Pastor Gehrke provided the following as background to the proposal to restructure SS Peter & Paul. We've grown to the place that a change is needed. The District Secretary has advised that we go forward with it and also tweak our Constitution as needed.

- 2009 Rev. Dr. Pete Larsen provided us with a vision for renewal process, due to the growth of the congregation.
- 2010 Church Council started talking about pursuing it.
- 2011 Pastor Gehrke, Judy Fenske, and then-Chairman Gernot Joachim drove down to a church in Grand Blanc, MI, to discuss their structure. Council then decided we needed to identify what to restructure at our church. The Staff and the Church Council members read a book titled "Simple Church" to help determine the direction we should take.
- 2012 In July, a Vision Team was formed. In October, we held a "Vision Fest" whereby the congregation shared their thoughts.
- 2013 In May, the Council approved "Our Focused Vision," which was then approved by the Congregation. The theme became "Alive In Christ: Worship, Groups, Community." In September, the first themed 4-week Small Group Bible Study & Sunday sermons took place. We continued to operate as we had been, but also continued studying the process.
- 2014 Re-evaluated the situation and in August, an Executive Committee was formed. Per the Constitution, it consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, Council Secretary, Head Elder, and both Pastors. To ensure a smooth transition, a resolution was approved at the September Council Meeting to present to the voters at a Special Voters' meeting on October 5.
- 2015 Goal to complete the process by August 31, 2015.

Following a period of Q&A's, it was moved by Glenn Schuldt, seconded by Gene Kuiper, to approve the resolution recommended by the Council, which reads as follows: "Whereas SS Peter & Paul is in the process of restructuring governance of the church in 2015, therefore let it be resolved that we, the Church Council,

recommend the extension of the terms of the current Chair and Vice Chair for one year in 2015 and have any new Board members selected in November (except for the Board of Elders) serve a one-year term only, instead of a three-year term, in 2015.” Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor Weber noted that this month, our congregation is celebrating its 147th anniversary. We then closed by singing the Doxology.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Pemberton, Council Secretary

For reference purposes only, following is a list of items covered at the Q&A session:

1. One-time situation? Yes
2. New Board members only? Yes
3. Details for restructuring? *Not available yet. Will be having a conference call with Kurt Bickel, one of the authors of “Structure Your Church for Mission” at the Executive Board’s meeting on 10-6-14.*
4. Current Board members? *This applies to those whose terms are expiring this year only. Maybe some affected members might be willing to stay on for one more year, but that is up to them. The rest of the Board members will continue the remainder of their term, pending the results of the restructure.*
5. Church Council, which includes Chairmen of each Board, has been involved in discussions all along. Voters assembly approved the need to restructure. A final vote will be authorized by the Congregation. That will be followed by changes to the By-laws and Constitution as needed, which will need to be approved by the North Wisconsin District to ensure they are in compliance with the Synod.