



2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2020 - 6:00 PM

Call to Order, Opening Comments, and Opening Prayer

Bill Azkoul

Elder Chairman Bill Azkoul called the meeting to order. Bill acknowledged those joining online and mentioned it was the first time an annual meeting had been live streamed. Bill then explained the contents of the member packets (Meeting Agenda, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, Elder Nomination Affirmation Ballots) as well as what was available to non-members (Meeting Agenda only). Everyone in attendance also received a copy of the Annual Report. Bill then opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of Minutes and Tellers Identified

Chad Kerr

Elder Clerk Chad Kerr introduced the tellers for the meeting:

- Kent Snoeyink, Head Teller
- Nicole Bedell
- Todd Klinske
- Arika Roelofs
- Drew Roelofs
- Amy Snoeyink
- Rachel VanSchooneveld
- Alisa Wilde
- Todd Wilde

A motion approving the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (Oct. 27) was passed. VVND

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Jon Nuenke

Prayer for selection of new Elders

Jon Nuenke

Thanks and Appreciation to outgoing Elders

Bill Azkoul

Bill expressed his appreciate to the Elders whose terms were ending in December:

- Bob Boverhof (Peggy)
- Bruce Bradford (Jane)
- Scott Tubergen (Jody)
- Allen VanHaitsma (Sherlyn)

Bill personally addressed each of the four men as he highlighted how he had seen God work through them. Bill shared a Bible verse that he felt best described each outgoing elder. In addition, Bill thanked each Elder's wife for their support during this time.

Introduction of Nominees for Elder

Bill Azkoul

Bill introduced the seven nominees for the office of Elder:

- Don Armbrester
- Steve Bagley
- Eric Cerling
- Brent Enders

- Steve Gronsmann
- Jason Jones
- David Oviatt

The Affirmation Ballot options were explained and members were instructed to mark their Affirmation Ballots appropriately. The tellers collected the ballots for counting.

Thanks and Appreciation to outgoing Deacons

Rick Huls

Before Deacon Chairman Rick Huls gave thanks to those Deacons whose term of service was ending, Bill expressed appreciation to Rick, and wife Beth, for completing his Deacon term. Rick thanked the outgoing Deacons, as well as their wives, for their service. The outgoing Deacons were:

- Dan DeVries (Carole)
- Rick Huls (Beth)
- Matt Kromke (Heidi)
- Mike Metcalf (Nicki)
- Rob Umstead (Linda)
- Chris Walkup (Michelle)

Commissioning of New Deacons

Rick Huls

Rick introduced the seven new deacons:

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| • Faith Bergakker | Benevolence Chair |
| • Angela Klinske | Personnel Chair |
| • Doug Lipinski | Jonathan Fund & Benevolence |
| • Kurt Mirandette | Benevolence |
| • Charylene Powers | Prayer Garden |
| • Vernon Spears | Communion |
| • Dave Weiskittel | Evangelism |

The Elders stood and extended their hands as the new Deacons were commissioned and prayed over by Rick.

Treasurer's Report

Don Armbruster

Don shared and updated the congregation on the following financial matters:

- The Grace Beyond loan is completely paid off.
- Calvary Church did receive funds from the Paycheck Protection Program and these funds were used for payroll.
- Don reminded the congregation that there is two categories of giving: The General Fund and Project Funds. Projects funds include Benevolence, The Jerusalem Project, Celebrate Missionaries, and the Jonathan Fund. In addition, short-term projects such as short-term mission projects fall under Project Funds.
- General and Project funds showed steady growth. Significant increase in Project Fund giving was due to increased funding of The Jerusalem Project. Significant decrease in short term projects was due to Covid-19 and limited opportunities.
- Don shared a video testimony from a congregant which highlighted the importance of the Benevolence Fund. Don encouraged the congregation to inform the staff of anyone who might benefit from the Benevolence Fund.
- Don reminded the congregation that a Reserve Fund for future anticipated expenses is continually funded.
- A full audit is completed every year with the last audit being August 2018.
- The proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year would be similar to the previous year.
- God had been faithful and provided during a difficult fiscal environment.

State of the Church

Jim Samra

Jim shared a "theology of masks" explaining what he feels God is doing with masks during Covid-19. In Exodus 19, during an encounter with God, Moses can handle God's presence, but the Israelites can't due to their sin. Therefore, God tells them not to

come close. In Exodus 20, God gives the Israelites the Ten Commandments to highlight and to root out sin, which allows them to confess the sin and then they are able to draw close to Him. The Book of Exodus ends with the Israelites building the Tabernacle and them being more comfortable with God's presence due to the Law. Jim shared that in Romans 5 Paul explains this. Paul says in verse 20, "The law was added so trespass might increase." The Law illuminates sin that was already there. In Romans 7:7, Paul goes on to a fuller explanation of this truth. Paul asks, "Is then the law sinful?" and then answers his own question "Certainly Not!" No one, but God, knows that the sin is there and he uses the law to highlight that sin. The Law highlights the sin and then we can confess it and then God can draw near. Paul says it this way at the end of verse 20, "Where sin increased, grace increased all the more." Jim shared an example of this being the Golden Calf in Exodus 32. Without the Law, "Have no gods before me..." and the law of "You shall not make for yourself an idol in any form..." this sin could not be highlighted. This allowed God to be kind and gracious and show the sin, then with true repentance, God could draw near. Jim shared that Covid-19 is reflecting Habakkuk 3 in which God is drawing near. Habakkuk says plagues go before him (3:5). His presence destroys sinners. So God in his kindness, gives us a law to follow to root out the sin, to repent and be able to be in His presence. Jim then went on to explain how this pattern applies to Covid-19, masks, and today. The governing authorities asked us to wear a mask and that did not go well and highlighted Americans inherent tenancy to not submit to authorities, a sin. When the elders of the church determined that the congregation should wear a mask this now fell under submission to the elders command to obey leaders in Hebrews 13. Wearing of the mask became a law, which highlighted the sin of lack of submission. Jim noted the wearing of the mask is often described as not making sense. Just like the Torah, many of the laws don't make sense. If we understood all the laws and they made perfect sense it would not require faith. Jim finished by saying he feels that the wearing of a mask is God's kindness and our law, highlighting our sin (submission, fear...), so that we may repent and allow him to draw near.

Q & A (open microphone)

Jim Samra

A variety of questions were asked, covering topics such future plans for choir and orchestra, adult congregations, and baby dedication. The deteriorating parking lot and a future maintenance building were addressed. Clarification was provided on such financial matters as acceptance and repayment of the PPP loan and a deeper explanation of the Jonathan Fund.

Selection of Elders

Bill Azkoul

Bill informed that congregation that all Elder nominees were affirmed. Bill introduced Adele Ripley and asked her to join him on the platform for the section of stones. The four elders whose stones were selected were:

- Don Armbrester
- Brent Enders
- David Oviatt
- Eric Cerling

The new elders came forward, along with all who were currently serving as Elder, and Vice Chairman Steve Doren offered a prayer of blessing over them.

Call for Meeting to Adjourn

Bill Azkoul

After a few closing comments, a motion to adjourn the meeting was passed VVND. Andy Crowder led the congregation in the Doxology.