



**SHARE GOD'S WORD SHOW GOD'S LOVE SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

## **McFarland Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2024

### **Call to Order:**

Council President Scott Potts called the meeting to order at 11:24 am. He asked if there was a quorum of members and Council member Sarah Schutt reported that yes, there was a quorum. [Note: according to our constitution, a quorum is 50 members and 122 signed into the meeting.]

### **Devotions**

Bonnie Dirks lead the devotions. She asked for continued guidance from the Holy Spirit.

### **Call Committee Report**

Aaroen Geisinger explained the Call Committee process and the reasons for choosing Paster Peter Erickson. He thanked Pastor Kelli and the MLC staff for their continued support during this process for the past 2 ½ years. He said that there was careful development of the Ministry Site Profile that highlights our church – its history, missions, projects, etc. He said the site profile included our top five ministries and our expectations of our new pastor. We expect the new pastor to support and empower staff, lead dynamic worship in various settings, offer effective communication, promote adult and other education, and engage with the Finance Committee and other groups.

### **Video of Pastor Peter Erickson**

Pastor Peter serves a congregation in Columbia Falls, Montana. As a youth, he enjoyed Bible Camp, became a camp counselor, and met his future wife Tonya there. They have two daughters in college and one daughter who has graduated. Pastor Peter enjoys the outdoors and is an avid runner and reader. He thanked the Call Committee. He likes the idea of working with a seasoned staff. He is impressed with the care for children and families, CLM and youth at MLC. He feels we have a passion for reaching out to our local food pantry and to world missions in Uganda and Guatemala. McFarland and the Madison area seem to be a great place to live. "I have been praying for you and look forward to your congregational singing, the baptismal font, sharing communion - the body of Christ, CLM, and Chris's milkshakes at Wednesday breakfast." He looks forward to teaming up with Pastor Kelli and staff. He thinks the solar project is cool. "I look forward to a new adventure in a new place that God is calling us to." Pastor Peter ended his video with the prayer, "Dear McFarland Lutheran, may the Lord bless and keep you. May God's peace be with you."

### **Expectations of the Congregation**

Sharon Mylrea presented the things that we as members should agree to do for our new pastor.

We will assist the pastor in getting to know his new congregation and the community in general.  
We will work to foster a sense of belonging.

We will pray for the safe arrival of our new pastor and his wife and their transition into this community. We will pray for their personal spiritual journey.

We will show our new pastor respect as our spiritual leader. We will celebrate his presence among us and honor his days off, vacations and professional development.

We will offer candid and sincere communication. Just as we ask of our new pastor, we will strive to be honest and open in speaking our truth in love.

We will be active partners in mission and ministry. We will encourage participation and lay leadership while working side-by-side with the pastor.

We will not expect perfection.

### **Motion to Approve the Call of Pastor Peter Erickson**

John Booske moved and Renee Roderick seconded a motion to extend a call to Pastor Peter Erickson to fill our Senior Pastor position at McFarland Lutheran Church. Motion carried, 119 to 2.

### **Things We Can Do for Our New Pastor**

Sharon Mylrea led a discussion about things we can do for our new pastor. Various suggestions were given by young and not so young members: buy him a Packer and Badger shirt, invite him to dinner, invite his wife to attend a quilters meeting, wear name tags, give him a state park sticker. Scott said that Pastor Peter will contract with a company to move his belongings and unload them with some going to storage as he will likely rent initially. The Lichts invited Pastor Peter and his wife to stay in their home for a week.

### **Adjournment**

Don Schutt moved and Jane Blank seconded a motion to adjourn at 12:17 pm. Motion carried.

### **Closing Prayer**

Isaac Ewing led the closing prayer, just as he had done at the end of all the Call Committee meetings. [Isaac was the youth representative serving on the Call Committee.]

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Licht, Secretary