

**Hope Lutheran Church
The Villages Florida**

**2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2024**

A light lunch was served prior to the meeting. Ken Wood led the congregation in the Doxology and the hymn "Praise to the Lord Almighty."

President Kristina Giffin welcomed the congregation.

Ministry Moments: Three ministry teams reviewed how their ministry serves Hope, how people get involved and thanked the volunteers:

- Don Maronde, Worship Ministries
- Ginny Wilson, On Our Own
- Chuck Walter, Disaster Preparedness

Meeting was called to order by President Kristina Giffin at 12:03 p.m.

Determination of a Quorum:

Pam Fenn, Council Secretary, confirmed that we had a quorum. The constitution states that a quorum for all Congregational meetings shall be five (5%) percent of the voting members based on the church roll at the end of the prior fiscal year, but not less than fifty (50) voting members. For 2024, a minimum of 101 voting members constitutes a quorum. There were 229 voting members attending the meeting.

Agenda:

Congregants had a hard copy of the agenda before the meeting. Kristina asked if there were any objections to adopting the agenda? There were no objections, the agenda was adopted.

Review of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of Congregational meetings are approved by the congregation. Draft minutes are printed in the Annual Reports and presented in the digital News in the Pews newsletter; the approved/official copies reside on file in the Church office.

Kristina asked the congregants if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 5, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting. There were no corrections, the minutes stand approved.

Kristina asked the congregants if there were any corrections to the minutes to the December 17, 2023 Special Congregational Meeting minutes. There being no corrections, the minutes stand approved.

Nomination Committee:

Kristina thanked the members of the nominating committee for their work. The committee spent many hours and meetings to ensure the nomination process was followed in accordance with our constitution. The committee members were Patrick Sawler (chair), Bev Castanien, Jim Morrill.

The open positions for Council are as follows: Council Secretary, 2 members at large (3-year term) and one council at-large member (1 year term to fill a vacancy).

The candidates were given the opportunity to give their remarks to the congregation.

Pastor David Butler offered a prayer for the candidates.

Election of Congregation and Council Officer and Members-at-Large:

The following members were nominated by the Nominating Committee and affirmed by Council to serve as officer and member-at-large of Hope Lutheran Church for the following terms (According to our bylaws, no further nominations could be made) :

Pam Fenn, Council Secretary (3-year term)
Raybon Gilbert, Member-at-Large (3-year term)
Jim Castanien, Member-at-Large (3-year term)
Pam Bixler, Member-at-Large (1 year term)

Kristina announced that there is only one nominee for each position. Therefore, in accordance with C12.02.02.g of Hope's Constitution, **the nominees for council are unopposed and elected by acclamation.**

Election of four (4) voting members to 2024 Synod Assembly

The following members have been nominated to serve as voting members to the 2024 Synod Assembly: Raybon Gilbert, Susan Blomenberg, Joe Guilfoil, Linda Murphy. **The nominees for 2024 Synod Assembly were approved.**

Installation of 2024 Church Council Members and Synod Assembly delegates:

Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean congratulated the newly elected council members and the approved 2024 Synod Assembly delegates. He prayed for guidance for the new council as they conduct the business of Hope Lutheran Church. He charged them with the oath of office and offered God's blessing.

Recognitions and Reports:

Pastor Rani Abdulmasih thanked the outgoing Council members Dave Withers and Rolf Moulton.

Kent Hamdorf, past president, thanked Pastor Bruce Dillman who has given up his call but is no way leaving Hope! We will see him teaching and preaching. He has just reduced his hours.

Pastor Rani Abdulmasih spoke to the congregation about the Evangelism team. He explained what their goals are and how the congregation can be involved.

Pastor Jon-Marc MacLean spoke to the congregation about exciting plans for 2024. This includes the groundbreaking on Hope South and celebrating our 25th anniversary.

Bob Franceski, Business Administrator, gave thanks to our wonderful staff and explained what each team member was responsible for. He reviewed membership statistics and asked us to read the 2023 Annual Report online or request a copy from the office.

Kristina Giffin gave the President's Report on 2023 Council accomplishments and laid the groundwork for the 2024 goals.

Kristina Giffin declared there was no further business.

Motion to Adjourn:

- **At 1:45 p.m. a Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed**

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Fenn

Congregation Council Secretary

Offered for Approval to the Congregation February 2, 2025

Following the meeting the floor was open for questions – there were none.