
Minutes

By-Laws Special Meeting

December 11, 2022

Opening Prayer: Pastor Bob Ericson opened the meeting in prayer.

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Council President George Nederhoff called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting that would focus on specific By-Law recommendations. He informed the congregation that Rod Hamer had been appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting. George thanked Rod for serving in this role.

Adoption of Rules and Procedures: President Nederhoff then asked that the printed Rules and Procedures on the back of the agenda be approved. A motion was made (Del Carpenter) and seconded (Al Schmeidel) to adopt the distributed Rules and Procedures. Motion carried by voice vote.

Courtesies of the Meeting: President Nederhoff then asked that the following courtesies be observed during the meeting:

- Speakers state their names before making a motion or speaking to a motion.
- Persons making a motion or an amendment submit a written version to the Chair.
- We are only acting on revisions of the By-Laws that were mailed out to members.

Approval of the Agenda: President Nederhoff then asked that the agenda be approved. A motion was made (Kay Carpenter) and seconded (Del Carpenter) to approve the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote.

Report of the By-Laws Task Force: President Nederhoff introduced Russ Curtis, Chairman of the By-Laws Task Force to give a brief summary of the background issues and process used to identify proposed changes. Curtis thanked the By-Laws Task Force who served with him: Pastor Brian King, Maureen Hanson, Paul Creeden, John Larsen, and Mike Christiason.

Motion of By-Laws Revision: President Nederhoff moved by the direction of the By-Laws Committee to adopt the By-Laws revisions. The motion was seconded by Del Carpenter.

Various congregation members spoke on Article II – Confession of Faith; Article III – Liturgy; and Article IV – Church Affiliation. Discussion took place.

Mark Rhoades moved to amend Article IV by removing the strikethrough and add: The entire church membership shall be notified and shall then be provided with an Absentee Ballot to qualified voting members, upon request with required identification and signature, to those that are unable to attend the ratification vote. Dan Rhoades seconded movement. Hand vote was taken. 142 in favor. 185 not in favor of the motion. Motion failed.

James Hoelscher moved to eliminate item 4 of Article IV and amend with: This congregation shall not discriminate against any individuals related to hiring, calls, volunteering, concerning gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Richard Juhl seconded the movement. Hand vote was taken. 180 voted no; 121 voted yes. Motion failed.

Motion to Cast Final Ballot Vote: Sara Miller moved to call the question to take a written ballot final vote on the motion on the floor to adopt the By-Law revisions as presented. Del Carpenter seconded the motion.

Report of Tellers: A written ballot vote was taken which requires a 2/3 majority to pass. President Nederhoff announced 187 people voted YES and 140 voted NO. Motion failed. By Laws revisions failed and current By Laws for Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church remain.

Motion to Destroy Ballots: A motion was made (Sara Miller) and seconded (Craig Blanchard) to destroy the ballots.

Adjourn: George Nederhoff, Council President, adjourned the Special By-Laws meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Andy Walser thanked everyone for attending, and closed in prayer.

Minutes Submitted by: Julia Voss, Executive Secretary