

**University Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Agenda
April 27, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 with an opening prayer from Pastor Josh.

- Pastor Josh led a blessing for the students graduating this year.
- **Approval of the Congregational Meeting Minutes December 8, 2024**
 - Motion to approve 1st/2nd/Approval: Jeanne/Herman/Unanimous
- **Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report**
 - Motion to approve 1st/2nd/Approval: Rick/Tammy/Unanimous
- **Stephen Acknowledge the work of UniLu committees**
 - Fellowship Committee
 - Finance
 - Worship & Music
 - LCM Committee
 - Education & Youth
 - Property (Ergonomic Accommodations & HVAC upgrades)
- **Installation Ceremony of Pastor Josh Kestner**
 - Sunday, May 18th at 3:00 pm
- **Council's 2025 Strategic Goals – Information only**
 - **LCM Pastor Calling**

The initial focus in 2025 will be the prompt discernment and successful onboarding of our next LCM Pastor. We will be conducting a defined sequence of interviews of vetted candidates received from Bishop Ginny Aebischer's office. Initial interviews will be with Pastor Josh himself and then the Call Committee will interview the recommended candidates. After which the Call committee's preferred candidate will interview with Church Council. Assuming the candidate receives Council approval, a "meet and greet" will be offered to the congregation and LCM students. Shortly thereafter a congregational meeting will be held where the congregation will vote on his or her candidacy and their associated compensation package.
 - **Property**

In 2025 the Church Council would like to enhance both the size and capabilities of the Property committee to effectively address the challenges posed by our structures and grounds. Our goal is to collectively tackle the constant stream of internal and external property issues with a multi-disciplinary team. This expanded team would also proactively replace obsolete equipment, such as the HVAC equipment in the Educational / Administration wing and initiate conceptual plans to upgrade areas in need such as the fellowship hall as well.
 - **Education & Youth**

In 2025 the Education committee is well-positioned to build on the foundation of an active Sunday school hour and recent intergenerational fellowship events. The 30+ regularly attending children, youth, and adults enjoy 14 total Sunday school teachers and substitute teachers. The committee is prioritizing needs and organizing volunteers to shepherd University Lutheran children and youth on their faith journey. This summer, the five confirmands will attend a week of campfirmation, and the committee anticipates a collaborative series of worship assistant training events for God's children of all ages.

Some of you expressed interest in immediately hiring a Youth Coordinator at our last Congregational Meeting to ease the burden on Pastor Josh during this transition period. After careful consideration by the Education Committee and Pastor Josh himself, their recommendation to Council was to postpone

consideration of this augmentation at least until next year. Pastor Josh prefers to focus on the proper onboarding and training of the new LCM Pastor first. He would also like to capture the thoughts and preferences of such a new position with the new LCM Pastor. The Education Committee felt given the current size of the youth community they had the resources to adequately address the needs in 2025.

- **Outreach**

In 2025 the Communication and Outreach committee will be established to strengthen our church community and extend a warm welcome to our neighbors. We will enhance communication through various platforms, ensuring everyone stays informed and connected, especially those unable to attend services regularly. Additionally, we will actively engage with the Clemson community to build relationships and share the welcoming spirit of University Lutheran, inviting others to join our spiritual journey.

Closed with Prayer – Pastor Josh Kestner

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn - 1st/2nd/Approval: Rick/Cindy/Unanimous