



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Attendance: 107 Members

1. Call to Order - Jon Schwab

Board of Elders Chair, Jon Schwab called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Rebecca Capeling & SECONDED by Stacey Morris to accept the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Devotion and Opening Prayer - Brent Rushinka

Pastor Brent shared verses from Philippians 1:4-6 and exhorted the congregants to live in community and to pray for each other so that our joy and caring would spread into the Cochrane Community. God will do this good work to completion.

4. Adoption of the Minutes:

MOVED by Dave Anger & SECONDED by Kent Liang to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2022 Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

5. Presentation: Women Serving as Elders - Jon Schwab

The chair was passed to Franc Godri while Jon Schwab presented information regarding the Board of Elders' decision to encourage the congregation to accept the local church's provision to allow women to serve on the Board of Elders. Jon reviewed the three documents that guide Cochrane Alliance Church. Article 8.1 of the local Church Constitution states that a provision exists that allows individual churches to allow women to serve as Elders. Jon reviewed the passage of the women in leadership issue from the inception of the CMA. In 2000, the provision was made for the local church to decide if women would be allowed to serve on Elders Boards. In 2003 and 2013 the vote failed to receive the necessary 2/3 majority. In September 2020, the Board received a letter from a congregant that the issue be revisited and several congregants discussed the issue with the then prospective Lead Pastor during interview. In September 2022, the Board decided to revisit the question and engaged in intensive study (see presentation slides for books and podcasts used), discussion, and prayer between September 2022 and April 2023 as well as a day-long retreat to share their findings.

a. Pastoral encouragement

b. Motion

John Schwab made a motion that Cochrane Alliance Church membership accept the provision by our local church constitution, that reads as follows: "a church may, by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership, choose to have women serve on the Board."



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6. VOTE - Women Serving as Elders at Cochrane Alliance Church

MOVED by Jon Schwab & SECONDED by Stacey Morris to accept the motion to accept the provision to allow women to serve on the Board.

CARRIED

Members present used paper ballots to record their votes. Additional votes collected via mail-in and electronic votes.

The chair was passed back to Jon Schwab.

7a. Lead Pastor Report - Brent Rushinka

Brent expressed thanks for support over the past year. He acknowledged Mike Poettcker's departure from Cochrane Alliance Church and expressed his gratitude for Mike's co-participation in ministry. Brent thanked congregants for their financial participation in ministry and thanked the staff for their willingness to accept new roles and ministries to equip and empower congregants. He reviewed the programs like Boys' Brigade that make a difference in the spiritual growth of boys in the church. Brent reminded the members of Randall Heier's departure and encouraged the members to pray for the staff and each other. He closed with Philippians 4:6-7

MOVED by Wayne Regehr & SECONDED by Cam Hiebert to accept the Lead Pastor's report.

CARRIED

The chair was passed to Dave Anger while Jon Schwab presented the Board of Elders' Report.

7b. Board of Elders Report – Jon Schwab

Jon opened with Psalm 127:1. He welcomed the new members of our congregation. He shared his heart-felt thanks for the congregation for their financial contributions to help Cochrane Alliance Church reach out to the Cochrane community. Jon expressed thanks to the members of the finance committee and recognized the departure of Mike Poettcker and Randall Heier.

He praised the staff for the smooth shift to new roles and responsibilities over the past year with Pastor Brent's restructuring.

Jon reviewed the Board accomplishments over the past year and expressed gratitude to the Elders' Board and the support staff at Cochrane Alliance Church. He praised Pastor Brent's service to the congregation.

Jon also thanked his mentors, brothers, and wife for their support then closed with the verse - Isaiah 30:15.

MOVED by Rebecca Capeling & SECONDED by Brenda Heavenor to accept the Board of Elders' report.

CARRIED

The chair was passed back to Jon Schwab.



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7c. Treasurer's Report - Don Neufeld (this report was given after Women Serving as Elders Vote and Elders Election Vote)

Income \$1,073,767 and Expenses \$969,352 for 2022-2023. Don acknowledged the positive giving toward the church's General Fund. He summarized the church's expenditures (Personnel 62%, Facility 13%, Office 3%, Financial 8%, Missions 7%, and Programs 7%). Building loan: Mortgage Fund Income \$121,460, Principal Repayments \$116,537, and interest payments \$128,066. Don summarized the methods of giving with Interact giving as the greatest type of giving (37%) followed by Push-Pay (27%).

MOVED by Don Neufeld & SECONDED by John Doyle to accept the Treasurer's report.

CARRIED

8. Result of Women Serving as Elders Vote

a. RESULTS - Motion carried with 81% in favour (73 for/17 against)

b. Destroy ballots

MOVED BY Lorraine Vlestra & SECONDED BY Cam Heibert to destroy the ballots.

CARRIED

9. Report of the Nominating Committee - Brent Rushinka

Nominating Committee - Brent Rushinka, Shirley Stevens, Heather Ann Braun, Doyle Peterson, Simon Ongom.

Nomination for Congregation Reps (1-year term): Danielle Schwab and Sharon Wicker

MOVED by Maryann Anger & SECONDED by Suzaan De Kok to accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

CARRIED

10. Election of Elders

Elections for a 3-year term for Cam Hiebert, and Blaine Ellerby, and Tim Heavenor for a 1-year term on the Board of Elders was held by secret paper ballot.

11. 2022-2023 Financial Statements - Don Neufeld

MOVED by Dave Anger & SECONDED by Tim Heavenor to accept the 2022-2023 Financial Statements.

CARRIED