



Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto

Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting March 24, 2024
Hybrid Meeting
(St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church and Zoom)

1. Calling the Meeting to Order and Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. She welcomed the congregation members and thanked them for attending today, both those present in person and those attending via Zoom.

Pastor Maria blessed the proceedings.

2. Explanation of Process for Hybrid Meeting

Pastor Maria explained the process for the hybrid meeting. Voting will be by show of hands.

3. Appointment of certifiers

Claes Holmquist and Ylva Dahl were appointed to certify today's minutes, together with the Chair.

4. Declaration that the Meeting has been properly called and that quorum has been established

The Chair declared the meeting properly called by advertisement in the weekly newsletter, in KyrkoNytt and from the pulpit since February 2024.

A quorum was confirmed by a count showing a total of 24 Congregation members present, 8 of whom being Council members. It was concluded that this meets the requirements of the constitution.

NOTE: According to the Constitution, the total number of voting members present must not be less than three (3) times the number of voting Council members present.

Ratio: Non-Council: Council 2:1

5. Confirmation of the agenda

The agenda for the meeting was accepted as presented.

6. Follow-up questions from minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 12, 2023

The move of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto to a new location from Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church on 25 Old York Mills Road to St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church (SAC) on 1847 Bayview Avenue. The move was completed successfully.

7. Follow up questions from minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of June 18, 2023

The Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto voted for the move to SAC. This was the only agenda item.

8. Reports for the Activity Year 2023

a) Chair Solveig Lalla See Attachment #1

Highlights of the year included celebration of the Congregation's 70th Anniversary, a visit from Bishop Erik Eckerdahl, formal installation of Reverend Maria Scharffenberg and a new agreement between the Church of Sweden and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The Chair thanked Congregation and Council Members for their support and trust throughout the past year.

b) Treasurer Anne-Marie Johansson See Attachment #2

The treasurer presented the Profit & Loss and Balance statement for the year 2023 showing an Income total of \$283,234.70 and Expenses of \$267,116.29 resulting in a positive net result of \$16,118.41. The income included an annual operating Grant and an extra - Covid allocation from the Swedish Church, SKUT. Our assets as of December 31, 2023 were \$276,096.63 kept in a combination of interest bearing accounts and GICs.

c) Birka Group

There was no report from Birka.

MOTION: By Christina Keighren, seconded by Arja Maria Lindfors that the reports be received.
Vote: All in favour.

9. Auditor's Report See Attachment #3

The report from the Auditor, Michael Grammer was presented.

MOTION: By Claes Holmquist, seconded by Lilian Junkin that the Auditor's report be received.
Vote: All in favour.

10. Approval of the Actions of The Church Council for the year 2023

MOTION: By Erik Wiersma, seconded by Åsa Hellenberg that the actions of the Church Council for the year 2023, be approved. Vote: All in favour.

11. Election of Chair of the Congregation

The Chair, Solveig Lalla, asked for nominations for the post of chairing the election of Chair for the Congregation. Claes Holmquist **assumed the chair.**

The Election Chair asked the Nominating Committee for their recommendation for Chair of the Congregation. Linda Kuk spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee consisting of Linda Kuk and Erik Wiersma.

The Nominating Committee recommended Solveig Lalla as Chair. Solveig Lalla was asked if she was willing to serve. Solveig accepted and thanked the congregation for their confidence.

The Election Chair then invited further nominations from the floor and from the participants over Zoom. There were none.

MOTION: By Lilian Junkin, seconded by Ulla Sundström that Solveig Lalla be elected Chair of the Congregation for the one-year term until the AGM 2025. Vote: All in favour.

12. Election of Council Members

The Nominating Committee recommended the following candidates for members of Council:

Christina Keighren	3-year term until AGM 2027
Caroline Tsilkas	3-year term until AGM 2027
Fras Byhno	3-year term until AGM 2027
Anne-Marie Johansson	2-year term until AGM 2026
Magnus Hjerpe	1-year term until AGM 2025
Ulla Simonassi	1-year term until AGM 2025

The Chair then invited further nominations from the floor. There were none.

MOTION: By Åsa Hellenberg, seconded by Lilian Junkin that the Nominating Committee's slate of recommended Council members be approved. Vote: All in favour.

13. Election of Auditor and Assistant Auditor for the fiscal year 2024

The Nominating Committee recommended Michael Grammer as Auditor and he has indicated his willingness to continue for the fiscal year 2024.

The Election Chair asked the Congregation if anyone from not from Council would be interested as Assistant Auditor. There were none.

MOTION: By Lilian Nygren-Junkin, seconded by Ann Marie Johansson that Michael Grammer be appointed Auditor for the fiscal year 2024. Vote: All in favour.

14. Election of Nominating Committee for the AGM 2025

The Chair thanked the nominating committee Linda Kuk and Erik Wiersma, as they had done a terrific job.

We need people for the Nominating Committee - one person from the church council and one congregation not on the church council. The Chair asked for a nomination to serve for the AGM 2025. We would like Linda and Erik to continue. We would like to find a third person for this committee, but you do not have to decide today.

MOTION: By Ulla Sundstöm, seconded by Arja Maria Lindfors that Linda Kuk, and Erik Wiersma be elected as Nominating Committee for the AGM 2025. Vote: All in favour.

15. Approval of Budget for 2024

The budget for 2024 was presented. For the fiscal year 2024, we will receive a total of \$200,000. CAD from SKUT to be paid out in three instalments (January, May, September 2024). This amount is to cover operating expenses for our church, rent for the parsonage and costs for the pastor's salary. Within the overall envelope of \$200,000. CAD, the amount of SEK 200,000. is allocated to travelling expenses for the Mobile Ministry for North America.

Last year we anticipated a deficit of \$28,000, but we received an unanticipated gift of SEK 200,000 from SKUT to support our congregation's move to St. Augustine of Canterbury; therefore, there is a surplus indicated at the end of 2023. This money from SKUT is to be spent on purchases that will make us more comfortable in our new home. To date we have jointly purchased a refrigerator, and have bought a new microphone for the pastor that is compatible with the system at SAC. We have budgeted for a new computer, which is badly needed.

Although we have resumed a regular schedule of worship and many activities, it is still difficult to predict income and expenses for the coming year due to continuing after-effects of Covid-19 and the move to a new home. We do know that we will save at least \$15,000 in church rental costs due to the move.

The budget for 2024 shows a projected income of \$268,900 and expenses of \$284,500 for a projected deficit of \$15,600 for the coming year.

We have a 5-year agreement here for our rental, which provides some stability in terms of coming years.

MOTION: By Christina Keighren, seconded by Claes Holmquist that the budget for 2024 be approved. Vote: All in favour.

16. Other Business

Pastor Maria informed the congregation that Claes Holmquist has been a member of the Church Council since 1992 and he has recently resigned from his position. Claes has been instrumental to the Church, as he has been involved with the church activities. Pastor Maria expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto with gifts; a key lanyard from SKUT, the reflective safety angel, a small wooden heart and a candle holder in blue glass in the shape of SKUT's symbol "the drop" (droppen).

17. Adjournment

The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions, and on a **MOTION** from Anne-Marie Johansson the meeting was adjourned at 3:17pm. (no vote required)

Chair
Solveig Lalla

Certifying Member
Claes Holmquist

Certifying Member
Ylva Dahl

Attachment #1

Svenska Lutherska Kyrkan I Toronto Ordförandens Rapport till Kyrkostämman den 24 mars 2024

Vilket spännande år vi har haft sedan kyrkostämman 12 mars 2023. Församlingen firade 70 års jubileum. Vi flyttade till St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church (SAC) efter 25 år på Agricola Lutheran Church. Vi fick ett första besök från en svensk biskop, Erik Eckerdal, som ledde mottagningsgudstjänst och installation av Pastor Maria Sharffenberg den 17 mars. Och i förra veckan, blev ett nytt avtal underskrivit av Svenska Kyrkan och Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Igenom det gångna året har vi kunnat ha regelbundna gudstjänster och har fortsatt med församlingens verksamhet. Vi har firat våra svenska traditioner: Valborg var kallt och regnigt, men en jättestor brasa lyckades vi tända och det var vått i gräset när Raul ledde folkdans i parken på Midsommar. Vi har haft jazzmässor, pilgrimsvandring, köttbullsmiddag, Julbasar och två Påskbasarer. Kanelbulle-kafé var nytt i år och vi samarbetade med St. Augustine of Canterbury på Fettisdagen: vi serverade semlor och SAC serverade "pancake dinner". Jättepulärt och all vinst gick till fundraising för diskmaskin. Tillsammans har vi nu överstigit målet på \$10,000. CAD.

Pastor Maria Scharffenberg har nu varit i Toronto i drygt ett år och vi är så tacksamma att vi har stabilitet i församlingen. Förra året skrev jag att det skall bli spännande med nya idéer, och jag kan säga att det verkligen inte har varit brist på idéer hos Maria. Tack för allt du gör för vår församling.

Kyrkorådet har under året haft tio ordinarie möten. Styrelsen i KR hade två extra möten.

Vi bygger ett väldigt bra samarbete med SAC och har blivit varmt mottagna i vårt nya hem. Deras församlingsmedlemmar har kommit på både events och gudstjänster. Vi skall ha gemensamma gudstjänster på Skärtorsdagen och Långfredagen och vi ser fram till många fler möjligheter att samarbeta.

Samarbetet mellan SWEA Toronto och kyrkan fortsätter att gå mycket bra. Vi fortsätter också samarbeta med Svenska skolan, även om vi nu är på olika lokaler.

Vår församling är i högsta grad beroende av volontärer och frivilligarbete. Tack till alla som ger av sin tid och stöder vår verksamhet. Stort TACK till:

- Birkagruppen som pysslar och ordnar basarer/middagar; Anne-Marie, Birgitta, Arja-Maria
- Claes som tar hand om logistik och allt praktiskt...också smarriga bakverk
- Linda och Fräs som ser till att allt funkar med kyrkvårdar
- Lilian Nygren-Junkin som tar hand om lekmanaledda gudstjänster
- Emma Eriksson, som har haft hand om Luciakören i 25 år!
- Toronto Swedish Folkdancers & Singers för stöd till vår verksamhet och deltagande i gudstjänster

Till slut vill jag tacka alla församlingsmedlemmar för deras hjälp och för det förtroende ni har visat mig och kyrkorådet under det gångna året.

Solveig Lalla

Attachment #2

Treasurer Anne-Marie Johansson

Rapport för Activity 2023.

Please find enclosed Balance sheet for the year 2023 showing Income of
Of \$278,766.70+ \$4,468.00 for ham, Total \$283,234.70.

Expenses \$267,116.29.

Resulting in a positive net result of \$16,118.41.

The income included an operating Grant from the Swedish Church abroad total
Jan.-April \$84,000.00, anslag mobil präst May to August \$54,000.00
Sept. to Dec. \$54,000.00 plus Pandeminstöd \$24,237.40 Sept. 2023.
Total \$192,000.00 + Pandeminstöd \$24,237.40

Assets as of Dec. 31, 2023 \$276,096.63

Were kept in a combination of interest bearing accounts and Guaranteed Investment
Certificats (GIC), plus Inventory.

Attachment #3

March 21, 2024

To: The Swedish Lutheran Church

Re: Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023

I have reviewed the financial statements and supporting materials for the Swedish Lutheran Church for the year ended December 31, 2023. In doing so, I reviewed the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, trial balance and detailed transaction details for certain categories in the general ledger. I examined rent—5485 and rent—church and office--5060 for January 2023 (no discrepancies), donations corporate --- 4040 and bazaars— 4140 for March, 2023 (no material discrepancies), coffee/food—5220 and telephone/internet---5050 for June, 2023 (no discrepancies) and priest salary/payroll for December 2023 (no discrepancies) . I examined backup documentation for all of the above.

I did not conduct any further examinations, however it is my opinion that the financial statements presented to me represent materially fairly the financial position of the Swedish Lutheran Church for the year ended December 31, 2023.

I am prepared to accept appointment as auditor for the coming year.

Michael S. Grammer, Auditor