

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
2/15/2021**

**Present:** Bob Fingland, Glenn Kraft, Gary Klopff, Rock Foster, Kendra Hines, Paul Davis, Sharon Misuraca, Jenn Bader, Gene Unverfert, Josh Mensie, Pr Josh Brecht, Pr Amy Stewart

**Excused:**

**Guests:**

**7:02 Opening and Devotions**

1. Bob Fingland opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and verified a quorum was present. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to Covid restrictions.
2. Pr Brecht opened the meeting in prayer and shared a passage from Hebrews chapter 12 and devotion

**7:08 Consent Agenda-** Sharon Misuraca moved to approve, Rock Foster seconded. Approved unanimously.

1. Approval of Agenda for February 2021 Council Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes for January 2021 Council Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes from January 2021 Congregational Meeting
4. Approval of Committee and Staff reports as submitted (See Report Package)

**7:19 Key Update/Recommendations Agenda**

1. Report from Covid task force-team reviewed hospitalization data, which has been trending downward. Hopeful that current trends can continue. Previous plan was for hospitalizations to be in the 200-250 range before coming back to any type of in person worship or small group activities. Task force met last Wednesday to continue to monitor the data. Due to snow and cold, there is a consideration to move Ash Wednesday service online.
2. Transition Update
  1. Council Update on MSP complete, final approval of MSP-version was sent out to council last week.
  2. Schedule for balance of transition-Bob walked through the overall timeline, we are at the step of approving the MSP as a council. Pr Josh has been working on job descriptions to be reviewed Feb 23 with the executive committee. Council made a few adjustments to time of meetings. Bob Fingland will send out updated schedule and Zoom invites. Council discussed notification needed for congregation to ensure timeliness before special meeting.
  3. Rock Foster moved to approve the MSP as distributed, Glenn Kraft seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  4. MSP availability to congregation-this will be available at request to individuals and sent via email
3. Pr Amy Sabbatical review and approval-Rock Foster moved to approve, Paul Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Pr. Josh was asked about any additional support and coverage needed while Pr. Amy is out. He and the staff will give some thought to needs.
4. Membership Report-Pr Josh-nothing notable this month

5. Finance-January Reports-Rock Foster-first month of the calendar year, so difficult to draw conclusions. Jennifer and Rock are working to simplify the PNL. Discussed wanting quarterly financial updates from Building Blocks-Pr. Amy can work with Building Blocks to figure out if Quarterly is the most helpful, or if other timelines would better meet the needs. Rock will also support in getting that information routed to Kathy on a regular basis.
6. 2021 Budget Clarifications from Congregational Meeting and other recommendations
  1. 2021 Operating Budget approved at January Congregational meeting.
  2. Review contributions quarterly before any increase in line item budgets-discussed current constitutional limits on adjusting line items.
  3. Should we encourage general fund contributions or earmarked special contributions-discussed linking individuals to the GSLC online giving. Currently plan to offer FMSC as an option to contribute electronically.
  4. Recommendation to move local benevolence from special fund to general fund item-that was already completed, per Rock's report
  5. 2021 Allocation to Endowment-idea was discussed to delay until next quarter to allow for growth in the market. It was decided that this could be a good time to transition those funds over and the group agreed to make the payment to Endowment at this time. We typically recommend 5%.

### **7:58 Discussion/Decision Agenda**

1. Constitution and Bylaws Updates-R Fingland
  - a. Approved updates at Jan 31, 2021 meeting
  - b. Clause allowing 8 years on council was pulled based on council poll prior to the congregational meeting. Discussed the role of the president elect and if individuals who are currently on council could step in as new President if "President Elect" position didn't transition to the President position. Current wording is a term limit of 4 years. Bob reviewed the current length of service of current council members.
  - c. Endowment chair selection remains with council per the vote at the congregational meeting
  - d. Need one member of Council to be on Endowment Committee per BL C13.07.01-if anyone is interested, please contact Bob.
2. Constitutional Requirements regarding finance committee-former members contact Bob to learn about what the needed to be doing. Rock will be a contact for these individuals. It is a bylaw requirement, but there is a question on what exactly the group is supposed to accomplish. This group has not met in 4 years. Previously a group had been identified however that was curtailed due to covid restrictions. Rock discussed planning and needs around internal audit.
3. March 28, 2021 Special Congregational Meeting-to affirm council recommendations around lead pastor position
4. Marketing Endowment Funding-discussed need for focus and ongoing congregational education to get some growth in this area.
5. Good Shepherd Future Fund interest-Glenn Kraft-discussed difference in Endowment and the idea of GSLC being identified in member's wills. ELCA has an individual who does some work with fundraising, is that something we would be interested? Rock shared that this has been utilized in the past with limited results. Discussed a "Future Fund" being a new fund separate from Endowment. Rock brought up this being a possible role of the finance committee to assist in developing some of these key initiatives.
6. Strategic Plan-some of the work with the MSP has brought up wanting to do some additional work around creating a strategic plan. The will be coming once we are through the process of identifying a Lead Pastor. This hasn't been updated since the work around the Holy Cow survey.

7. Inspiring Contributions and active support of GS mission-What is the best way to spark conversations around this? Glenn shared some thoughts that had been discussed at Stewardship. Focus on getting new, regular contributors.
8. Mission trip to Guatemala moved to 2022 due to covid-this mission group was disappointed, but felt like it was the correct decision. The ELCA Youth Gathering was also pushed back another year, so the fund raising around these tasks could be sizable.
9. Live streaming test-went really well. Once we move to live worship from a prerecorded. Has a chat feature and you can request prayers. We will also continue to use Facebook and YouTube for those that are able to connect that way.
10. Synod Assembly Reps-first weekend in June-its virtual via zoom. We need 4 lay people members to attend for GSLC. Focusing on racial justice and the role of the church. If any council members are interested, let Pr. Josh know. Non council members can also represent Good Shepherd.

### **8:55 Closing and Prayer**

Glenn Kraft moved to adjourn. Gary Klopf Seconded. Passed Unanimously.  
Meeting closed at 8:57 PM with a prayer from Pr. Amy.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kendra Hines  
Congregation Secretary