

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2022**

**Present:** Jill Thompson, Sharon Misuraca, Troy Larson, Jan Thompson, Paul Davis, Bob Fingland, Larissa Hautekeete, Greg Mueller, Lanny Schnipper, Gene Unverfehrt, Pr Josh Brecht, Pr Varinia

**Excused:** Pr Amy Stewart

**GOALS for Meeting:**

1. Council members can articulate the differences between governance for small congregations and larger congregations.
2. Council members can articulate the status of the Service ministry opportunities and movement towards supporting one local entity fully.
3. Council members established policy, fiscal tactics to achieve Service strategy and suggestions for ministry.
4. Governance and Fiscal concerns are addressed.

**7:00 Welcome and Devotion:** Welcome to Pr. Varinia; Lectio Divina/Scripture from “Service” section of the strategic plan, presented by Jill Thompson

**7:07 Agenda:** Motion was made to approve the agenda by Lanny Schnipper, Seconded by Greg Mueller, Passed Unanimously,

**7:09 Team Learning:** Governance and Ministry Book, presented by Pr. Josh Brecht  
Governance - policies, facilities/property/capital, financial/fiduciary, accountability to mission  
Ministry – day-to-day plans and decisions, plan and implement programs, empower people to participate in and carry out our mission

**7:35 Consent Agenda:** (See Report Package):  
A motion to accept the Consent Agenda (report package) was made by Gene Unverfehrt, and seconded by Troy Larson, Motion passed unanimously.

**7:37 Strategic Focus: Service:** presented by Bob Fingland  
Since the survey, the focus was made on children, youth and family involvement, along with food insecurity. It appears hard to engage personally with those that the organization benefits, and possibly have a speaker series about social services or social justice issues.  
What role can Council play related to identifying one service area? Work done to date has been done to identify type of ministry, along with data related to the top two topics. As a part of our preparation to do some of this work, we should know more about existing ministries we serve.

**Strategic Focus: Policy and Fiduciary Needs:** Paul Davis recapped and presented

Policy: Structure of service ministries, structure of congregational care, pass-through giving, working with other churches

Fiduciary: Provide money for service partner, fund service team, benevolence, coordinate specific dollar request, endowment

### **8:24 Policy – Fiduciary Responsibilities**

Fiduciary: Fiscal Report given by Troy Larson

Service Team wants money released (\$5000 was budgeted for a specific agency to fund more fully, and has not yet been allocated) to give to smaller organizations.

Troy Larson moved to not release the requested \$5000, Sharon Misuraca seconded, Passed with 2 abstentions

Policy: Church Growth question discussed by Pr. Josh

Do we as a Council endorse growing larger? What information do we need to make a determination? Might want to look at spiritual growth of those who are already here, or those who have not yet come back. This would prepare our congregation to grow in numbers by building structures.

A motion was made by Jill Thompson to accept the slate of nominees for the Mutual Ministry Committee, seconded by Jan Thompson, and Passed Unanimously. The new members for a three-year term are Kathy Busch, Paul Markovits, and Ruth Hearold.

Contract Protocols and Policy, presented by Jill Thompson

A Contract Protocols and a Contract Policy revision was discussed. Tabled until more input from HFMC

Staff Benefits

Motion to fund the Silver HAS fund for insurance and retirement was made by Sharon Misuraca, seconded by Paul Davis, and Passed Unanimously.

### **9:09 Assignments:**

Retreat details, and no Council meeting on October 17

**9:10 Closing and Prayer:** A Motion to adjourn was made by Paul Davis, seconded by Greg Mueller, and Passed Unanimously.

Closing Prayer offered by Pr Varania.

An additional motion was made by Jill Thompson, and seconded by Jan Thompson, regarding guests bringing their own alcoholic beverages to Brews and Hymns, which will be held outdoors on Good Shepherd property on October 16<sup>th</sup>. This motion and voting was handled via email, and was approved by a majority of the Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Thompson  
Congregation Secretary