

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17, 2023**

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

**Excused:** Troy Larson, Pr Amy Stewart

**GOALS for Meeting:**

1. Council members approve Strategic plan report and determine calls to action.
2. Council receives updates on task force groups.
3. Governance and Fiscal concerns are addressed.

**7:01 Welcome, Prayer & Devotion:** Devotional and Welcome presented by Pr. Varinia

**7:11 Approval of Council Meeting Agenda:** Motion was made by Paul Davis to approve the agenda, and seconded by Greg Mueller. Motion passed unanimously.

**7:12 Consent Agenda:** (See Report Package. We asked committees to submit reports re: focus areas) A motion to accept the Consent Agenda (report package) was made by Bob Fingland and seconded by Sharon Misuraca. Motion passed unanimously.

Highlights: Jamie De Geer - pleased with the quality from choirs, as they are growing in #'s and spirit; Palm Sunday, with K-5<sup>th</sup> singing with the adult choir, went especially well;

Emily Horning - 14 singers participated in Palm Sunday; Easter Celebration was attended by 94 families, with many great volunteers;

Delaney Rhea - developing relationships that are having impact in supporting our youth;

Welcome Team - worship recommendations: reintroduce children's bags at main doors, pillows available, investigate hearing supports;

Pr. Varinia - The great responses of lay leaders to the invitation to preach Good Friday, great responses to be involved in Flower's ministry and responses we receive from people saying yes to Altar Guild's ministry; Question to Council: In case we cannot find someone to train us with the Flower arrangement training for free or in a modest charge, can the church help us covering part of the fee to train

these ladies, so they don't pay the whole fee by themselves and as a way to encourage them?;

Pr. Josh - Taking time to reflect and evaluate ministries/events; Re-thinking Lent for next year (lack of desire for Wednesday evening worship). Noon worship & class went well; Particular thanks to Pr. Varinia for planning the Good Friday worship; Gail & Pr. Josh will be attending a conference in May for senior pastors of large churches; working on sabbatical plans;

Kathy Rebholz - The emergency/building safety team has begun meeting. Our next meeting is next week. I'm glad this is taking place!

Some Membership changes: Lanny Schnipper moved to approve the membership changes, and Sharon Misuraca seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

### **7:20 Strategic Focus Areas:** led by Paul Davis.

Strategic Plan DRAFT for Congregational Council Activities: 3 Foundational Plans were determined: Leadership Development, Member Engagement, Service 2.0. Council liked the call to action as well as a plan; Suggested to pare down items that were mentioned in more than one area; need to make sure we are asking for involvement; do we need to look at first half vs second half of the year?; prioritize what is in each section of the years; we are already doing many of those listed, but need to continue; add the ways that people can follow thru, related to the plan: determine calls to action:

Children, Youth, and Family: Lending a hand to serve meals,

Belonging: Join a small group; Invite a friend to worship or other activity; Share your passion on a team or committee

Spiritual Growth: Join a bible story or start one, offer suggestions for topics; serve in worship; be part of a prayer group

Service: Attend Our Neighbors, Our City; give a shout out on social media for church activities; Provide Christian support (become a Stephen Minister

### **7:48 Task Team Updates:**

1. Building Blocks Rent: presented by Lanny Schnipper. Looking back at what has been attempted; rent went up considerably on some years. Still investigating a fair amount to charge for rent. A proposal will be presented next month.

2. Children/Youth Safety Concerns: presented by Greg Mueller & Gene Unverfehrt: Will be voted on next month.

3. Building/Intruder Safety Protocols: updated by Bob Fingland & Gene Unverfehrt. The team will meet tomorrow, and information will be presented next month.

4. Leadership Development Committee Recruitment (to develop leadership

training and work with nominating committee as leaders are trained) was presented by Jill Thompson, for Brett Spoerle. Possible members needed approval from Council. Jan Thompson made a motion to approve, and Greg Mueller seconded. Motion was approved by all members, with 1 abstention. The names of the possible members will be announced, pending acceptance.

5. Saturday Evening Worship Team: presented by Pr. Josh. A survey was sent to those who attended Saturday Service in the past. A decision should be made by fall, as to continuation. A focus group conversation to establish some thresholds will be held in the near future. Will continue to monitor need.

6. Local Service Partnership might be identified by the end of May

### **8:25 Fiduciary Responsibilities:**

1. Treasurer: Thank you to Troy Larson for the work that he has done. Lanny Schnipper has agreed to step in to fill the open position of Council Treasurer. A motion to accept this was made by Gene Unverfehrt, and seconded by Bob Fingland. The motion was passed, with one abstention.

2. Monthly Financial Reports were presented by Jill Thompson and Pr. Josh:

3. Finance Committee Focus: Proposal for Short-Term Organization has been drafted, and will be honed in the near future.

4. Audit Committee Focus has been defined and committee is looking at documents to help lead them as they continue. Members who were suggested are: Glenn Kraft, Cindy Wright, Megan Boyer, and Craig Rich. Three will be voting, with the other who will serve in an advisory and service capacity A motion to accept these member was made by Greg Mueller, with Jan Thompson seconding. It was passed with full approval, and one abstention.

### **8:53 Policy Responsibilities:**

1. Endowment Requests: A \$5,000 request from Veterans Community Project, for the purchase of recliners, was submitted to the Endowment Committee, who has approved this request. A \$1,250 request from the Good Shepherd Fellowship Forever Abilities Matter (GSFFAM), to fund their Puppet Ministry, was also submitted to the Endowment Committee, and approved. Both requests also required Council approval. Council voted unanimously to approve both requests.

2. HR Policy Leave Policies – Follow-up presented by Sharon Misuraca regarding Holidays/Leave/Family and Medical Leave.

3. Feed the Need STL Board Member and Council Liaison is needed. Joe Wright's name was submitted. Sharon Misuraca made a motion to accept, which was seconded by Lanny Schnipper. Motion passed

unanimously

4.

Youth Engagement on Council, presented by Jill Thompson: A proposal for adding 2 nonvoting youth members to the Council is being discussed.

5. There was some discussion on how to address the concern that some folks are having trouble hearing during services.

**9:13 Assignments and Closing:** Closing and prayer offered by Pr. Josh. A Motion to adjourn was made by Gene Unverfehrt, and seconded by Sharon Misuraca. The motion was passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Thompson  
Congregation Secretary