

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2023**

Present: Jill Thompson, Sharon Misuraca, Jan Thompson, Lanny Schnipper, Ed Seuc, Bill Ericson, Amy Fulbright, Larissa Hautekeete, Marcus Raymond, Pr Josh Brecht

Excused: Greg Mueller, Pr Amy Stewart, Pr Varinia Espinosa

GOALS for Meeting:

1. Council members will know each other better.
2. Council members will understand Spiritual Practice of Discernment.
3. Council members monitor Strategic plan progress.
4. Council receives updates on task force groups.
5. Governance and Fiscal concerns are addressed.

6:05 Welcome & Approval of Agenda: Bill Ericson made a motion to accept the agenda, which was seconded by Larissa Hautekeete, and passed unanimously. Devotional and opening prayer were provided by Jill Thompson.

6:11 Consent Agenda: Highlights of staff and committee reports:

Pr. Josh reports that the Saturday Worship Service is going strong, with 50-60 in attendance, and overall attendance a bit higher because of it.

Pr. Amy is celebrating that Delaney Rhea will be continuing in the part-time position as Director of Youth and Family Ministry. GSLC is very grateful for her willingness to stay on in a more permanent way!

Delaney Rhea enjoyed the staff retreat and is thankful for the hospitality and generosity shown to the staff, the leadership for setting up a productive and comfortable atmosphere, and for Council support.

Emily Horning is happy that Sunday School and Wednesday nights have begun, and grateful that some new families are getting involved and connecting with others.

Kathy Rebholz is grateful for the opportunity to meet with the family of Peg Metroff, reaffirming their wishes regarding the Memorial fund that was set up to honor Peg.

The Welcome team report that we welcomed 17 new members in October, which was the largest group in 3 years. New members have commented on GSLC's overall openness, friendliness, service focus, relevant sermons, and joyful worship services.

The Leadership Development Committee reported that there were 40 people involved with the first round of meetings.

A motion to accept the consent documents was made by Sharon Misuraca and seconded by Ed Seuc. Motion was passed unanimously.

6:20 Dinner and Team Building: During the Retreat dinner, Council members shared a time when God moved us to action either by a kick, a gentle nudge, or a whisper.

7:03 Team Learning: Spiritual Practice of Discernment: presented by Pr Josh, from Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership (by Ruth Haley Barton.)

7:25 Strategic Focus Areas: presented by the Pr Josh

We have been returning to the Four Focus Areas to see progress, and we will be looking at what needs to be done next on goals. The remaining two focus areas are:

1. Spiritual Growth: Reaching others where they are at.
2. Service 2.0: Identified LifeWise StL as our Partnership, and continued supporting Feed the Need STL.

7:38 Policy - Fiduciary Responsibilities:

Fiduciary:

1. Monthly Financial Reports, were presented by Lanny Schnipper, indicating that Income is relatively stable. Project finishing the year, with Property being over budget, as funds were needed for lights and smoke detectors. The income from Hedgewood was also less than expected, as it was empty for a few months.
2. Building Blocks income and budget is now aligned with calendar months.
3. ERC Funds (Employment Retention Credit) was discussed.
4. Discussion on what is the purpose of the restricted and unrestricted funds, and do we want to keep it in the same investments.
5. The possible sources of funding that is needed that could or should be used for the Sanctuary Projectors/Screens, were discussed. A motion was made to use ERC Funds for the Sanctuary Projectors and Screens, along with an appeal to the congregation, was made by Bill Ericson, and seconded by Sharon Misuraca. After discussion, it was passed unanimously. Also a request for \$5000 from the Endowment Committee will be submitted.
6. A motion was made by Lanny Schnipper to cover the first year of Stewardship for All Seasons from ERC money and seconded by Jan Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.
7. A grant request was unanimously approved by the Endowment Committee for \$1000 to benefit Ambulances For Ukraine, which also needs Council Approval. Jill Thompson made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Jan Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy:

1. Lutheran Scholarships: The Lutheran College Scholarship Committee has unanimously decided to award a \$500 renewal scholarship to Cora Hautekeete. Lanny Schnipper made a motion to approve this scholarship, with Ed Seuc seconding. This motion was passed with majority approval, and one abstention.
2. The proposed listing of Special Seasonal Offerings for 2024 was discussed. Motion to accept as written was made by Sharon Misuraca and seconded by Jan Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.

8:43 Task Team Updates:

1. Building/Intruder Safety Protocols Team was presented by Bill Ericson. What do we do if an intruder does enter our campus? May be looking at getting another at large member for the congregation involved on this team.
2. Saturday Evening Worship Team, presented by Pr. Josh: Overall attendance is averaging around 55-60 each week.

8:46 Staff Priorities and Goals – 2023-2024

Priorities and prunings for Staff were discussed. It is important to make clear which things are staff responsibilities, and which are suggested for Council (policy and fiduciary implications).

8:54 Assignments and Closing: prayer was offered by Ed Seuc. A Motion to adjourn was made by Jan Thompson and seconded by Sharon Misuraca. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Thompson
Congregation Secretary