

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2023**

Present: Jill Thompson, Sharon Misuraca, Jan Thompson, Lanny Schnipper, Ed Seuc, Bill Ericson, Amy Fulbright, Larissa Hautekeete, Greg Mueller, Marcus Raymond, Pr Varinia Espinosa

Excused: Pr Josh Brecht, Pr Amy Stewart

GOALS for Meeting:

1. Council members will increase their knowledge of their teammates.
2. Council members monitor Strategic plan progress.
3. Council receives updates on task force groups.
4. Governance and Fiscal concerns are addressed.

7:01 Welcome & Devotion: presented by Jill Thompson via Pr. Amy. Reflection on the Kingdom and Community through the church

7:09 Approval of Council Meeting Agenda: Motion was made by Bill Ericson to approve the agenda, and seconded by Sharon Misuraca. Motion passed unanimously.

7:10 Team Building/ Learning: Council members engaged in a Listening experience from Leslie Peters.

7:35 Consent Agenda: Highlights of staff and committee reports:

Pr. Varinia reported that she is excited about the connections she is gaining with people through visitation. The visitation team is also reaching out to many people by sending cards, making phone calls, and visiting. She thanks us for her first year among us, and remarked that she has grown more than you can imagine, as Good Shepherd is a very caring and supporting community of faith, for which she is happy and grateful to be part of. A special thank was sent for all the effort the elderly are putting forth to listen and understand her messages. It is because of them that she feels motivated to continue improving and maintaining her sermons to be the shortest she can, without taking away the good spiritual food or compromise the Gospel.

Jamie reports that things are going well in the music department. It has grown in numbers over the past few years. The quality of the music presented, especially by the choirs, is improving, and the camaraderie amongst all singers is refreshing. People seem energized and excited to participate! Volunteers have been supportive when she has tried new things, like the mini retreat that was held in July to learn and teach Setting #7, and the upcoming vocal workshop that is scheduled for September.

Emily reports that VBS was a great success. We had two new families come to church the weekend following VBS and had two families from VBS express an interest in joining.

Delaney reports that VBS was a particularly magical week of fun for our younger youth. She recognized that Emily Horning was such a passionate and dedicated organizer of this daunting event. Several middle schoolers told her what a great experience it was for them to work with Emily and to work with VBS for the week. She loved seeing the little kids all having fun with the games and activities, and heard lots of singing and laughing. Although she didn't have much of a

part in the week, she really enjoyed being on the periphery and getting to see and hear all the great fun that was being had.

Membership changes: There were no membership changes that required Council approval.

A motion to accept the consent documents was made by Lanny Schnipper, and second by Ed Seuc. Motion passed unanimously.

7:40 Strategic Focus Areas:

1. Leadership Development Committee: The topic of first LDC event for the congregation will be “What is Effective, Christian Leadership?” It is scheduled for Wed. 9/20 6:00-7:30; Wed. 9/20 7:45-9:15 and Sunday 10/1 10:00-11:30.

When asked if they had any requests for Council feedback: Following Temple Talk, please make an effort to attend one of the events and encourage others to attend. The event will be interactive, so having current church leaders present will add to the expertise/value of the event.

2. Local Service Partnership: Some activities have begun to support LifeWise StL, in ways beyond monetary support.

3. Feed the Need STL: Bob DeBolt reports that the Board will be increasing from 3 members to 6 members, including Joe Wright. They are considering staggering board terms, which will support continuity.

7:45 Task/Strategy Team Updates:

1. Building/Intruder Safety Protocols: A walk through with Manchester Police Department will be occurring this week, as a dry run for the upcoming Intruder Training, which will be provided for church staff and preschool teachers.

2. Update Saturday Evening Worship Team: The trial for Saturday evening service will begin on September 10th.

3. Council Retreat Plan Development: The retreat will be held on October 20 (6:00-9:00pm) and 10/21 (9:00am-12:00pm). This year it will be held at the Meramec Bluffs Log Cabin’

Food: Greg will help coordinate, Larissa and Ed will make sure the food gets there.

Logistics: Marcus will pick up items needed from church

8:07 Fiduciary Responsibilities: presented by Lanny Schnipper

1. Monthly Financial Reports, including Building Blocks, were presented, indicating that GSLC is in good financial shape at this time.

2. Set Building Blocks Rent: It was proposed that we maintain the current monthly rental rate. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Audit Committee Update: An audit has not been done in the past 5 years, due to covid. An ongoing Audit Team has been established, and will focus on payroll, banking, accounts payable, and insurance.

8:31 Policy Responsibilities: presented by Jill Thompson

1. Marcus Raymond will now be the Council Representative on the Endowment Committee, Bill Ericson will now be the Council Representative on Building Intruder Safety Protocols Task Force, and Amy Fulbright will now be the Council Representative on FMPC Committee. Motion to accept these representatives passed unanimously.

2. Trivia Night: Trivia Night will now be a Church wide event, with Andrew Leach leading it, rather than sponsored by FLY. Andrew has request that BYOB will be allowed for this event. Jill

Thompson made a motion to allow Trivia Night to allow alcohol in the form of Bring Your Own Bottle, which was seconded by Bill Ericson. The motion was passed by a majority of Council.
5. Executive Committee Update: A Harassment and Stalking Policies Draft was presented to the Council. Council will read and discuss this at the September meeting.

9:14 Assignments and Closing: Closing and devotional was offered by Jill Thompson, A Motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Misuraca,, and seconded by Larissa Hautekeete. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Thompson
Congregation Secretary