

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2023**

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

**Excused:** Pr Varinia Espinosa

**Guest:** Glenn Craft

**GOALS for Meeting:**

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

**7:02 Welcome & Devotion:** Welcome back, Pr. Josh! The Good to Great leadership concepts that parallel the model of Jesus was presented by Pr. Josh.

**7:18 Approval of Council Meeting Agenda:** Motion was made by Sharon Misuraca to approve the agenda and seconded by Ed Seuc. Motion passed unanimously.

**7:19 Team Building/ Learning:** Role of Dissent in committee meetings (characteristics, results, responsibilities) was discussed. Concept of fist to five was introduced.

**7:39 Consent Agenda:** Highlights of staff and committee reports:

Pr. Josh reports that the Staff retreat on Sept. 28 will focus on goals for 23- 24; working on Stewardship Fall Campaign, possibility of engaging with GSB Fundraising

Pr. Amy reported that the summer daily prayer project on Facebook, which garnered more interaction with our Facebook page, encouraged the congregation to practice a rhythm of daily prayer, and highlighted all areas of ministry so that folks might learn new ways to get involved.

Pr. Varinia was happy to say that the second Floral arrangement class was awesome, and one more is scheduled for the end of October. Seeing people's excitement as they prepared their floral arrangement is priceless.

Emily is looking forward to the kickoff of Wednesday nights and Sunday School!

Kathy was grateful for the Safety Awareness Meetings and wants to thank Bob Fingland for his efforts in making sure this happened. She also reported a Personal Renewal: As she leads this preschool community and welcome the whole staff, students, and their families back to school, it's natural that she revisits her personal commitment she made to Good Shepherd and Building Blocks years ago. Even during challenging times, she truly loves what she does here, and what it does for her spiritually. She is beyond grateful to work alongside the church and preschool staff. Each person / committee has an impact on the work she does here. Thank you for always supporting this ministry, as we thank her for her 10-year Anniversary as director!

Welcome Team - During the summer there has been very good attendance at Good Shepherd's worship services by visitors and our newest members. Personal interaction and communications have been fundamental. Welcome Team objectives contribute to returning visitors.

FMPC - Gene Unverfehrt successfully changed out all the lights from ballast/incandescent bulbs to LED.

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

Glenn Craft has been added to the Leadership Development team. The LDC has some upcoming meetings set for all who are interested.

A motion to accept the consent documents was made by Bill Ericson and second by Greg Mueller. Motion passed unanimously.

### **7:50 Strategic Focus Areas:** presented by the Pastors

1. Returned to Four Focus Areas to see progress. We will be looking at what needs to be done next on goals.

2. Children/Youth/Family:

Updated the Child/Youth Safety Policies

Training volunteers for working in the kitchen

Staff Plans: educate how youth can serve on teams, such as the LDC

Intergenerational activity opportunities are strong.

3. Belonging: Reaching out to those that might not be engaged.

Lanny has been good at making sure that we have financial transparency and understanding.

### **7:58 Policy - Fiduciary Responsibilities:**

#### **Fiduciary:**

1. Monthly Financial Reports, including Building Blocks, were presented by Lanny Schnipper, indicating that everything is on track.

2. Audit Committee Presentation: Glenn Craft from the Audit Committee presented about the history of audits, and the upcoming audit, which will be done in the spring and presented in April or May, prior to the Congregational Meeting. They have looked to make sure the suggestions/findings of the prior audit have been done. Their conclusion was that it was materially accurate in most respects. There has been a proposal for what the 2023 audit will include when it is completed next year. Sharon Misuraca made a motion to accept the audit, which was seconded by Ed Seuc, and passed unanimously.

3. The Endowment Committee has passed and is requesting Council Approval for Grant requests for Caren Abraham and EWALU Bible Camp and Retreat Center. Jill Thompson made a motion to pass, with Jan Thompson seconding. The motion was passed unanimously.

#### **Policy:**

1. Harassment/Stalking Policy presented by Jill Thompson. A motion to accept the policy, with minor wording adjustments, was made by Bill Ericson, and seconded by Jan Thompson. The motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion on ways to disseminate this policy. Staff will sign off on the policy after it has been presented, as will Leaders of groups meeting. It will also be gone over at the Congregational Meeting, and we will consider posting a way to get help, if needed, in the restrooms.

2. Staff Insurance and Benefits presented by Pr. Josh. Every year our benefits go thru Portico, which is the benefits services through the ELCA. It was suggested that we approve the

continuation of Protico and the HSA contribution at the same level. Bill Ericson made a motion to approve, with Marcus Raymond seconding. Motion passed Unanimously.

**8:45 Task Team Updates:**

1.

Building/Intruder Safety Protocols Team was presented by Bill Ericson: An Intruder Safety Protocol presentation was made by Manchester Police. There is a Safety Team task force that have made a few recommendations that we will need to address. Bill Ericson and Jill Thompson will meet to see what parts need to be carried forward. There are still some gaps as to how it will be handled if there is an intruder inside the building.

2. Building Blocks Rental Approval Team reports that as progress was established and rent has been recommended and approved on time, that the team is officially ended, with much thanks to Lanny Schnipper and Gene Unverfehrt.

2. Saturday Evening Worship Team, presented by Pr. Josh: The first Saturday evening service on September 10<sup>th</sup> had 127 people in attendance, including some people who were only able to attend rarely and 10 first time visitors. The second week was 60 attendees, with 15 new people.

3. Council Retreat Plan Updates: There will be no Monday night Council meeting in October, as the meeting will be part of the Council Retreat on October 20-21. Council members will take on preparation for some food for the staff retreat, with Sharon chairing (10 people).

**9:10: Assignments and Closing:** Closing and devotional was offered by Jill Thompson, A Motion to adjourn was made by Jan Thompson, and seconded by Lanny Schnipper. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Thompson  
Congregation Secretary