

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2024

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 Varinia Espinosa

Excused: Pr Amy Stewart

GOALS for Meeting:

1. Council learns more about spiritual discernment.
2. Council members monitor Strategic plan progress and task teams.
3. Council reviews and deliberates budget proposal.
4. Governance and Fiscal concerns are addressed

7:04 Welcome & Devotion: Devotional and opening prayer were presented by Pr Josh regarding Spiritual Discernment. Commit to praying without ceasing; to continue to see God's will. (This meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to inclement weather.)

7:08 Team Learning: Sharon Misuraca presented a summary of the first chapter of The Nones.

7:26 Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jan Thompson and seconded by Lanny Schnipper. Approval of the motion passed unanimously.

7:27 Consent Agenda: A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Sharon Misuraca and seconded by Ed Seuc. The motion passed unanimously.

7:29 Policy - Fiduciary Responsibilities:

Fiduciary:

1. Financial Reports, including Building Blocks, were presented by Lanny Schnipper. We ended the year with more funds than expected coming in during December, which helped us with an ending deficit that was less than expected

The Audit Team, made up of professionally trained volunteers from church, is meeting before the end of January.

Building Blocks has just about broken even. Having a calendar year budget will help them with reporting on a monthly basis.

FMPC is working on information regarding what is needed for the parking lot problems, and when it is needed.

2. Year end fiscal status: There was a determination that there is no need for any final adjustments to the current 2023 budget.

3. Budget Proposal to present at Congregational Meeting: A few adjustments were made to present at the meeting. A motion to approve these was made by Jan Thompson and seconded by Greg Mueller. Motion was passed unanimously.

4. Endowment Fund Transfer: It was proposed that 5% of the capital restricted endowment be moved to the checking account for endowments. The motion to approve was made by Larissa Hautekeete and seconded by Lanny Schnipper. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy:

1. There was a discussion regarding the process and/or approval of Capital fundraising. It was felt that we could not make a determination at the present time. Council will first need to know the FMPC project priorities, which will be requested. Lanny Schnipper will work with the FMPC Team to prioritize the needs list. In addition, the Asset Development Team needs to be further along in their efforts to better understand our resources. After obtaining more information, Council will better be able to determine if/when Capital fundraising is needed. In the short term, we believe there may be some things that could support the need for Capital expenditures and generally meeting the budget. Pr. Josh will work with Stewardship to explore these opportunities. These include helping people understand that if they give via a credit card, the church must pay the credit card company 3% of the amount which is given. If giving by check, direct withdrawal, or cash, no fees are charged to us. There may also be ways to highlight giving to the Capital Reserve Fund on our website and in other communications.
2. Mutual Ministry Changes were discussed. A proposal for changes to the Mutual Ministry Charge was made by Sharon Misuraca and seconded by Jan Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

8:40 Asset Development Team, Process and Preparation presented by Jill Thompson and Pr. Josh. There will be more listening sessions with small groups. We also discussed some important things we are considering from Your Leadership Edge regarding listening.

9:01: Task/Strategy Team Updates:

1. Building/Intruder Safety Protocols Team, presented by Bill Ericson. Steve Donabauer is no longer able to serve on this team. Kathy Rebolz will be joining the team. Ongoing work in this area will be continuing.
2. Policies-Legal and Insurance Review has no update at this time, but will be meeting in person soon, as reported by Greg Mueller.
3. LifeWise StL Update: Sonia Francis is working with LifeWise StL to create a calendar. By the end of the month, they are hoping to have a few ideas of the best ways in which we can support them.
4. Feed the Need STL Board/Council Update: Hoping to fill in the 500 needed volunteer slots for the Friday, April 12, 2024 shifts.
5. The Annual Congregational Meeting is on January 28, 2024, and will be conducted both in person, and on Zoom.

9:08 Assignments and Closing: Marcus Raymond offered to lead the second chapter of The Nones for the February Council meeting. Pr. Varinia offered the closing prayer. A Motion to adjourn was made by Jan Thompson and seconded by Greg Mueller. This motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Thompson
Congregation Secretary