

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2019, Fellowship Hall**

The meeting began at 10:19 A.M. with a buffet lunch.

A quorum was established with 49 members in attendance.

Call to Order: Council President Greg Buchholz at 10:45 A.M.

Devotional Prayer: Greg Buchholz, Council President

Tellers: Kristy Buchholz and Susan Metzger

Rosemary Fassel made a **motion** to accept the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Elsie Witt, and passed unanimously by the congregation.

Review of 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes previously approved by the Council

**COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Council will have a maximum of 12 members, with 10 elected members and the Pastor. The Treasurer is a member of the Council, appointed not elected, and thus has a voice but no vote.

Four members' terms are expiring: Candace Bradley, Adam Castle (left mid-year), Sue Hertless, and John Mott.

Mark Deniston, as head of the Nominating Committee, introduced new Council nominee, Mike Henry.

The Council has approved the Nominating Committee's slate of four nominees for the open positions for 3-year terms expiring in January 2022: Candace Bradley, Mike Henry, Sue Hertless, and John Mott.

Nominations from the floor: Jay Neyenhouse made a **motion** to nominate himself, which was seconded by Gordon Monroe, and passed.

Greg Buchholz expressed openness to accept the slate as is by acclamation, or otherwise to proceed with the standard written ballot. Tracey Rentner requested that we proceed with a written ballot, which was echoed by Marcia Sander. A simple majority of ballots cast is required to elect a nominee to serve on the Church Council.

Herb Yonge made a **motion** to close the nominations, which was seconded by Tracey Rentner, and passed unanimously.

Greg thanked Susan Metzger and Kristy Buchholz for being tellers. The Tellers distributed the paper ballots, votes were cast, and the ballots were collected and counted. Candace Bradley, Mike Henry, Sue Hertless, and John Mott were elected to serve 3-year terms on the Council.

## **REPORTS**

### **Pastor's Report**

Pr. Jeremy was absent due to illness, but his report and slideshow presentation to the congregation will be re-scheduled.

### **Property Committee Report**

Tony Rogelstad reported the following accomplishments in the past year:

- Parking lot was re-sealed and re-stripped.
- Brush and debris have been removed from the lower areas, which has helped minimize the homeless problem and the amount of trash in the bushes.
- Basic property maintenance
- We continue to work on the ongoing Friends Feeding Friends project.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Tyler Costa thanked the other members of the Finance Committee (Gordon Monroe, Joe Carlson, and Herb Yonge), thanked Laura Mott and Pr. Jeremy for helping the committee to be good stewards of the Good Shepherd's finances, and thanked Gordon Monroe for over 10 years of putting together balanced budgets.

- Good Shepherd had positive net operating income of \$5600 due in large part to an increase in Current & Benevolence giving.
- We were able to increase Pr. Jeremy's salary to Synod guidelines this year after falling \$6000 short of the guidelines last year. This was accomplished through selected budget cuts and by eliminating rent payments to allow him and his family to live in the parsonage rent-free.

### **Council President's Report**

Greg Buchholz reported that we had a net income of almost \$8000 from last year's Pumpkin Patch and raised almost \$2900 for Friends Feeding Friends. Thanks to everyone who participated, especially those who participated in the hard work of unloading and cleanup. This event also helped raise awareness of Good Shepherd in the community.

Greg asked if there was support among the congregation to do it again this year, and a show of hands indicated that 29 out of 49 members supported the idea.

Herb asked where the proceeds would go. Sue Hertless and Susan Metzger recommended once again keeping the proceeds for Friends Feeding Friends. Susan indicated that last year many people in the community heard about FFF, many of them through other organizations, and that was why they came.

Else Welsh pointed out that we won't need as many pumpkins as we had last year, and Sue Hertless informed everyone that the pumpkin supplier will automatically adjust the number of pumpkins delivered based on last year's sales. Sue added that all of the proceeds from any pumpkins sold after Halloween go directly to the church.

Marcia Sander asked if we still have the tents, lights, and other supplies that we purchased for last year's pumpkin patch, or if we need to allocate funds for additional purchases this year. Sue and Greg confirmed that do we still have those items stored in the church basement, so the outlay to do it again would be minimal.

Else suggested having more activities for kids and families this year. Greg said that the Council had talked about the possibility of having a bounce house, and Sue added that because this was our first pumpkin patch that we wanted to go slow so that we could learn as we go. However, we will try to come up with more things for kids to do. Greg said that the church Council will have further discussion about the pumpkin patch.

### **Friends Feeding Friends – Ministry**

Mark Deniston reported on what FFF is contributing to the community. As of last January 1st we had a balance of \$15,591. Total income from 2018 was \$26,282, and \$24,595 was spent providing food and household goods to the community.

In addition to a large grant coming in, we are funded by the Pumpkin Patch, Clayton Community Church, GSLC member donations, and outside donors. There is a line item in the budget for FFF, but FFF fully supports itself. No money from C&B goes to FFF.

### **Friends Feeding Friends – Proposed Building Update**

As approved by the congregation last year, we moved the \$16,000 from the Kitchen Fund over to the FFF building fund.

- **Stirling Architects on hold:** We have spent a little more than \$2000 on technical reviews and the drawings we showed you at last year's annual meeting.
- **Mike Albrecht put together Excel spreadsheet:** Mike listed 278 companies/groups giving grants with detailed research notes regarding each grant on the spreadsheet.
- **UC Grant Group:** No charge for researching possible grants for funding a building on GSLC campus. There will be a charge once application started – 150 hours to complete.

It costs up to \$30,000 for a good grant writer. Most grants are awarded to fund the contents of a building, but not to build the building itself. We are trying to find some grants to give us seed money, and the UC grant writer group has been exploring the possibility of securing grants from Cal Recycle, the H.C. Gemmer Family Christian Foundation, Trinity Wall Street Church, and the Bayer Foundation.

### **Resurrection Church in El Salvador**

Sue Hertless reported that she, Betty, and Tres Stopford will be in El Salvador from February 5<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. Betty will be working with various churches on making paraments. Trey will go out to the farm to work with Maria Trinidad who takes in orphans that are going to the university. Sue will be working with the bishop and the council to work out a date for them to visit us this year, and also work with them to purchase an altar for the new church. GSLC member donations go to support Resurrection Church's ministries such as the Hope House where they feed homeless people every day, and Sunday school. Fundraising proceeds will be used to buy the altar and other merchandise.

### **Presentation and Adoption of the 2019 Budget**

Finance Committee chairman, Tyler Costa, reviewed the changes to this year's budget. The main cuts came out of capital improvements to help balance the budget, but also from voluntary concessions from the Property Committee and Evangelism Committee budgets, as well as from Pr. Jeremy's Other Professional Expense in order to avoid reducing the budget for our outreach ministries.

Candace asked how difficult it was to put together the budget this year with the new stewardship approach that did not include formal pledges. Gordon Monroe said it was not

difficult because instead of using pledges that usually don't match actual giving anyway, he used the actual contribution figures from 2018 as the basis for the budget.

Greg thanked the entire congregation for their giving in the past year. A year ago we had the discussion about the pastor's salary and compensation not being up to synod guidelines. We couldn't do so last year, but with Gordon's help and by getting a little creative, we were able to meet the guidelines this year.

Mark added that when you look at the budget, you'll see that Laura's salary appears to be getting close to the pastor's, but remember that the pastor's compensation also includes a \$23,000 housing allowance. John Mott added that the compensation also includes pension contributions.

Herb asked that since there are no pledges being recorded this year, how should it be shown on the P&L? Gordon responded that he and Laura had discussed this earlier. We currently record unpledged, pledged, and plate offerings. So, contributions received in member envelopes will be counted as pledges, and loose checks will be counted as unpledged.

Sue Hertless made a **motion** to adopt the budget, which was seconded by Candace Bradley, and unanimously passed.

Greg requested authorization from the congregation for the Council to approve the Annual Congregational Meeting minutes at the next Council meeting. Rosemary Fassel made a **motion** to accept the request, which was seconded by Gordon Monroe, and passed unanimously.

### **Questions and Comments**

- Leone McCullough expressed concern that if you go downstairs, you will see there is an obstacle course, so we need to find some more storage space. If we are going to keep these things, we need to find a storage space for them so they're not just lying around. Greg agreed and proposed that we take that to Property. He said that we do have some storage space in the shed up the hill. Tony Rogelstad agreed and said it could probably be cleaned out.
- Elsie Witt was concerned that we are not giving any focus to the Sunday School, which is our future if we're going to have one, and would like us to put our Sunday School on the regular prayer list. She said she would also like to see a focus of having somebody step in and start to form a program again, because we really don't have a program other than what Sandra and Jessica have been able to put together. She added that their effort has been wonderful, but we're not getting the children to come in. We're not getting the new families to come in, so she suggested that we need to have some time and energy put into that to develop a program for us.
- Emilie Patton wondered what is happening with the search for an organist. She noted that in the proposed budget the salaries for both the organist and the choir director are about \$2000 less than before and wondered if that is a practical consideration given the smaller amount of time that there's going to be. She also noticed that the contemporary music salary is going up and wondered if that is that a practical thing or if it's an indication of a change in direction.

Greg affirmed that it's more practical than anything else. We were wondering honestly when we'll be able to find an organist and a choir director to help us go in the direction we want to

go. We think it's going to be at least a few months, so we decreased that budget because we don't think we're going to have anyone in place, unfortunately, and we're paying Tom a little bit more because he is currently providing music for the whole service. We have no intention of doing anything different than we have been doing. It's just that we're in kind of a tough spot right now while we don't have anyone in place.

- Rosemary Fassel said that she thought the music today was kind of nice, so maybe while we are waiting for an organist, we can occasionally have this extra music path, and John (Yeh) did a wonderful job with Tom. So, let's consider it.
- Greg said if anyone is interested in being on the Worship & Music Committee, it is in need of members.
- Else Welsh asked if it's hard to find an organist. Leone answered that it is very hard to find an organist at this time of the year. Greg added that it is also hard to find organists who match our worship style. Else emphasized that since we have this organ, we need to use this organ. Greg confirmed that we know that is our congregation's desire, and the Council will proceed with that in mind.

Greg said he was terming out as Council president and thanked everyone for all of their support for these past several years.

### **Adjournment**

Greg called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Deniston made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sue Hertless, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 A.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mott  
Secretary