

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – 7 PM via Online Zoom

## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) Council was called to order via Zoom at 7:08 PM on July 13, 2021, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

**Present:** Pastor Jeremy Serrano, Candace Bradley, Kristi Buchholz, Scott Etzel, Mike Henry, John Mott, Laura Mott, Renee Reis

**Absent:** Sue Hertless, Jay Neyenhouse

## DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER – Pastor Jeremy

## RECOGNITIONS

- Mike Henry recognized Jamie Rodemsky for mowing the weeds in the upper parking lot.
- Mike Henry recognized Dana Deniston for her extra efforts meeting with the Property Committee and plumbers to ensure the scope of the required work in the kitchen was covered in their estimates.
- Scott Etzel recognized Dana Deniston and the Friends Feeding Friends (FFF) volunteers for their ongoing service to the community with FFF programs distributing food, clothing, and furnishings to those in need.
- Scott Etzel recognized Candace Bradley and Mike Henry for their support and encouragement in getting the blood drive scheduled.
- Scott Etzel recognized and thanks the Guild of Quilters of Contra Costa County who provided new patriotic quilts for veterans.
- Laura Mott recognized and thanks Reyanne Freeman for agreeing to join the Offering Counting Group once a month.
- Laura Mott recognized and thanks Gordon Monroe, Sue Hertless, Betty Jacobsen, and now Reyanne Freeman for their service in the Offering Counting Group!
- Scott Etzel recognized Pastor Katie Holeman for filling in for Pastor Jeremy last Sunday.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized and thanks Glen Bradley for making multiple trips to discard old paint that has been accumulating in our shed.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized and thanks Mike Henry for cleaning up the brush around the church property, and for fixing the electricity in the church shed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bay Area Crisis Nursery invites us to help them celebrate 40 years of service by helping them raise \$40,000. Donations up to \$30,000 will be matched by the Quest Foundation.
- Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (I4C) asks for our presence and participation in their peacebuilding events and continued financial support as a congregation, and their need for individual supporters as well.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **○ Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** made by Kristi Buchholz to accept the June 8, 2021 Council Minutes; seconded by Laura Mott; motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Pastor's Report**

- Continuing Thursday with book discussion of *God and the Gay Christian*.
- Pastor Jeremy would like to update our welcoming statement to specifically include BIPOC (black indigenous and people of color) and the LGBTQ community.

### **President's Report**

Kristi asked if Pastor Jeremy has a vision for rewriting the welcome letter – he said he has been collecting these types of welcome letters from other churches for insight as to how we might update ours.

Will we have any more interaction with the congregation regarding the LBGTQ community? Scott volunteered to create a Survey Monkey for Council to learn if the congregation has more questions, then we can discuss the survey results and answer questions. Kristi also asked if Pastor has heard from other churches about this topic.

## **Committee Reports**

*Please see the individual committee reports; if any questions, see Council Secretary. Some additional discussion occurred on the following topics:*

### **Finance – Laura Mott**

- Laura reported in April \$25,000 was moved from the checking account to the Vanguard STAR Fund. In early July \$30,000 was moved from the checking account to the Vanguard Wellington Fund.
- Laura reported the Finance Committee recommends we search for and hire an on-call IT person for church technical needs.

- Laura reported the Finance Committee recommends that the rental rates be raised for facility use.
- Laura reported our organ is having severe problems, and would be an expensive fix if we choose to fix it. We have a good reserve for organ fund repairs.

### **Fellowship – Council**

It was reported Dana requested we close and lock the accordion doors over the kitchen counter and lock the door from the kitchen into the Fellowship Hall, as groups renting the Fellowship Hall do not need access to the kitchen.

Candace Bradley reported Marcia Sander made a request to have Larry's memorial on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 11 AM, with a reception in Fellowship Hall to include food service. Candace said she would head a committee and make phone calls for assistance with food. Marcia will inform Candace of anyone she knows who would like to contribute food for the reception.

### **Property and Long-Range Planning – Mike Henry**

- Mike reported the estimate for the second plumbing contractor was received for the kitchen work (Affordable Plumbing never submitted an estimate). He said they are leaning towards the C and H Plumbing Contractor, but he will hold off until he has talked with Property Committee members.
- Mike reported additional progress has been made communicating with Mortensen Roofing. He spoke with John Mortensen, and should receive a new estimate from him tomorrow. A concern is the disposal of the gravel from the roof, as it is expensive to take to the dump.
- Mike reported the Dish Network Agreement was reviewed by the Property Committee, and returned with a counter-offer concerning the monthly lease amount.
- Mike reported a request to re-key the locks for the FFF classrooms to eliminate the need for multiple keys. Laura suggests that someone check the fire door by the Fireside Room as it has old tape on it, and could be a fire danger. Mike said his team will check all of the old door knobs in the Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor Jeremy asked Dana if we should redo the pantry room in the kitchen where the silver, double-door fridge is housed. FFF keeps their food in this area, and food and supplies are starting to encroach on other counters and storage places. He said new wire shelving is an option, with a single-room air conditioner. The door can then be locked and used only for FFF.

### **Social Ministry – Scott Etzel**

- Scott reported FFF provided food for 3,320 people in need. Our pantry is open more days a month than most, and we allow clients to choose and pack their own food.
  - ❖ Aided with furnishings for 16 households, which included a few families, disabled seniors, and veterans.

- ❖ Picked up food from the Food Bank, Nob Hill, and two other locations, and distributed clothing, hygiene supplies, and household items.
- ❖ Assisted management at the Concord Shelter by providing food and supplies for clients as they moved back to the newly remodeled shelter, and met regarding logistics to provide meals, snack foods, and cold drinks with Covid still active. Contacted other churches to help provide future assistance.
- ❖ Helped donors unload furniture that they transported to church, and we arranged for caseworkers to pick up furniture directly from donors.
- ❖ Delivered groceries to seniors without transportation.
- ❖ The Food Bank granted FFF \$2,000, which we can use for wiring or to buy a new commercial freezer that is 110-volt compatible. Dana plans to write a follow-up letter for the grant committee.

The FFF account balance as of June 30 is \$43,542.78, which increased by \$421.60 in June.

- Scott reported the American Red Cross is scheduled to do a blood drive at Good Shepherd on Friday, August 20, 2021, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The goal is to have approximately 35 people sign up to donate and ultimately obtain 30 blood donations.

### **Youth – Renee Reis**

Renee inquired as to when she should announce Confirmation Classes to begin, maybe mid-August or September. Pastor Jeremy said we can use the school start date as the starting point for Confirmation classes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Candace Bradley to adjourn; seconded by Pastor Jeremy; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Date of next regular Council meeting – August 10, 2021, 7 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church