

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 19, 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 7:06 PM on October 19, 2021, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

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

Absent: Jay Neyenhouse (excused)

DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER – Pastor Jeremy

RECOGNITIONS

- Pastor Jeremy recognized Glen Bradley for working on the riding lawnmower.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized Candace Bradley for working on the church property.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized Nancy Judge and Kathy Reis for watering the church plants.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized Renee Reis for beginning Sunday School for high-schoolers.
- 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 furnishing to those in need.
- Renee Reis recognized Jessica Serrano for making announcements regarding Sunday school and confirmation classes.
- Mike Henry recognized whoever covered his COD duties in September.
- Candace Bradley recognized Laura Mott for assisting to secure pulpit supply and musicians recently during unexpected times; for overseeing the Sander memorial and working so closely with the family; and for always doing more than just her job covering the office duties and helping others. Thank you, Laura – you are appreciated!
- Sue Hertless recognized:
 - ❖ Kristi Buchholz for being the MC at the luncheon to celebrate Pastor Christian's visit to Good Shepherd.
 - ❖ Candace Bradley for purchasing the flowers and making all of the table arrangements for Pastor Christian's lunch.
 - ❖ Alan Lester and Ron Figueroa for table setup and tear down.
 - ❖ Kathy Reis, Susan Metzger, Betty Jacobsen, and Diana Stopford for making the salads and serving at the luncheon.
 - ❖ Jim Porter and Jon Moss for barbecuing the spare ribs and pulled pork, and making coleslaw.

Sue reported the reviews were outstanding! This was a dynamite team! Thank you to all of the people who attended Pastor Christian's events during the week of September 5. Each event was different, and each allowed for gaining understanding and knowledge about our different cultures. We have come a long way since 2015, and there is much to be celebrated!!

CORRESPONDENCE – None

OLD BUSINESS

○ **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION made by Kristi Buchholz to accept the September 14, 2021 Council Minutes; seconded by Candace Bradley; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Jeremy reported the draft “welcoming statement” has been completed. Discussion. One comment is that it may be a little more focused or emphasized on LGBTQ than need be.

MOTION made by Pastor Jeremy to use the Welcoming Statement for both our bulletins and our website; seconded by Kristi Buchholz; discussion; motion passed.

- **MOTION** made by Kristi Buchholz to approve the leave dates for Pastor Jeremy's sabbatical - June 5 through August 29, 2022; seconded by Renee Reis; discussion; motion passed.
- Pastor Jeremy reported we need to budget for a going-away sabbatical luncheon, and a returning-sabbatical luncheon for our congregation, for members to say goodbye to Pastor, and then to welcome him back.
- Pastor Jeremy reported he has been talking with people to be pulpit supply during his sabbatical. Do we want someone part-time or full-time during his time away? It was decided we need a part-time person. Pastor stated \$13,600 from the Lily Grant will be used for pulpit supply. We pay regular pulpit supply \$250 per Sunday. Pastor suggests this person come 15 to 20 hours per week. Kristi calculated approximately \$54 per hour may be fair.
- Discussion on Pastor Jeremy's compensation development worksheet package. Laura said the Finance Committee meets November 8, so numbers on the worksheet need to be ready before then. Kristi suggested that we give this worksheet to Finance and ask them if it is a possible goal to meet the amount of the worksheet, without being binding. Discussion, and some numbers were revised.
MOTION made by Kristi Buchholz that we send this revised document with the 2021 numbers to the Finance Committee for their review, and ask them if this amount/goal is attainable; seconded by Sue Hertless; discussion; motion passed.
- Pastor Jeremy stated the Social Security increase is 5.9 percent for cost-of-living adjustment and is in alignment with inflation. He asked if we should give that amount to Laura and Tom Deans-Flegel, and an adjustment for Jamie Rodemsky by raising his salary to \$30/Sunday (\$15/hour). Council agreed Jamie should receive at least minimum wage for the rest of this year.

MOTION made by Pastor Jeremy that we stay with the Social Security COLA and increase Laura Mott's and Tom Deans-Flegel's salaries by 5.9 percent; seconded by Kristi Buchholz; discussion; motion passed.

MOTION made by Pastor Jeremy to increase Jamie Rodemsky's salary to \$15 per hour starting in 2022; Renee Reis seconded; motion passed.

○ **President's Report**

Kristi asked if someone can take her November 7 COD day – Sue is COD on Halloween, October 31, so will switch with Kristi.

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 the Outreach ministries have to be defined for the budget. She asked if we would like to increase the Synod giving amount of \$750 per quarter (\$3,000 per year). Pastor Jeremy is in favor of and encourages an increase to the Synod – he suggested 10% of our operating budget, which is about \$30,000. Discussion.

MOTION made by Scott Etzel to budget for increasing the contribution to the Synod to \$4,500 per year in 2022; seconded by Sue Hertless; motion passed.

Evangelism – Sue Hertless

- Sue reported her budget for next year will be \$1,500.
- Sue reported she had a Zoom call with Pastor Christian. He told her Covid is really bad down there and in Honduras; the Catholic church has closed down. Sue and Betty Jacobsen will not be going to El Salvador this year, but will try in August 2022.
- Sue reported she will start working on a sponsorship program for children's education in El Salvador. She said a good education is a big focus, and is supported and encouraged for better employment opportunities.
- Sue reported she would like to talk with local restaurants to get vouchers for people to receive a Christmas meal this year.

Property and Long-Range Planning – Mike Henry

- Mike reported the kitchen plans have been submitted to Contra Costa Environmental Health Agency for review/comments/approval.
- Mike reported the DISH Network lease agreement is completed, and they are moving their equipment in. Their rent will be \$1,900 per month. There will soon be construction activity going on, but he hopes there will be no disruption to services or FFF.

Stewardship – Pastor Jeremy

- Pastor Jeremy asked if we should have a catered luncheon in the Fellowship Hall, and then burn the 2022 pledge cards outside, as we did in the past – Council decided against this idea this year. He suggested he could do the liturgy inside the church during the service, and then go to the courtyard to burn the cards. The date for the Stewardship drive is December 5, the second Sunday in Advent. Sue suggested we not use envelopes any longer, just do on-line giving.

Social Ministry – Scott Etzel

- Scott reported the FFF summary for September 2021 included:

Providing groceries to help 3,626 people; preparing 90 hot meals for the shelter clients; and distributing furnishings for six households (including a three-generation family).
- Scott reported FFF account balances as of August 31 are \$44,405.44 (DSP) and Building Fund \$20,821.13.
- Scott suggests we budget for a Council Retreat for 2022; discussion.
- Scott asked if we want to put the survey results for the LBGTQ on next month's agenda - Kristi will add this topic to November's meeting agenda.
- Scott reported a second blood drive will be December 10; he put money in his budget for a cookout after the blood donation.

Worship and Music – Pastor Jeremy

We will ask parishioners to bring pictures of their saints for All Saints Sunday, November 7.

Youth – Renee Reis

- Renee reported she would like to budget for numerous activities for youth for 2022, with a budget of \$700 for next year.
- Renee reported she should get an authorization from Good Shepherd to be Live-scanned (background check) and kept on file, because she works with children.

Discussion about revising our Constitution to a smaller Council or instituting longer terms. Pastor Jeremy said he will talk with the Synod about this revision. Discussion about whether this topic can be handled within the church.

Candace reminded Council that, for the October, November, and December 2021 Council meetings (and the annual meeting in January), this serves as a reminder to Council the congregation needs to vote for Synod delegates from our church who will vote and represent us at the Synod assembly in 2022, which will be held in Reno, Nevada.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Kristi Buchholz to adjourn; seconded by Renee Reis; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Date of next regular Council meeting – November 9, 2021, 7 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church