

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – 7 PM via On-Line Zoom

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) Council was called to order via Zoom at 7:03 PM on December 14, 2021, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

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

Absent: John Mott, Jay Neyenhouse (excused)

DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER – Pastor Jeremy

Pastor Jeremy explained that \$13,500 from the Lily Grant is designated for pulpit supply. Council prefers 20 hours per week. 12 weeks works out to \$56.25 hour. Mileage for visits, not for travel to/from church campus.

Introduction of Rev. Brandon Peck via Zoom, pulpit supply for Pastor Jeremy during his sabbatical in 2022.

A short series of questions and answers were asked by Council:

What have you been doing?

Working with PLTS working in curriculum development.

Works with a Swedish group in a congregation providing pastoral care for out-of-country people.

Linguistic and cultural aspects.

What is your availability during the week, time you could be on our campus?

He is very flexible – teaching full time through May; summer is very quiet for him, and open and negotiable.

Open to doing funerals should the need arise?

Yes. He has overseen a few funerals during Covid.

Are you open to home visits, going to peoples' homes?

Yes, more comfortable now because of Covid.

Preaching every Sunday? Need to be elsewhere on a Sunday?

Yes, he can preach every Sunday. No, no need to be elsewhere.

Are you comfortable leading worship in person?

Yes.

Are you okay with YouTube?

He feels most comfortable with Facebook and Zoom, not much experience with YouTube. He can share links and create links.

Rev. Peck's questions of Council:

Hybrid service or YouTube and in person, 10 AM single service.

Are Confirmation and Sunday School on break during the summer? Yes

Services and monthly Council meetings? Yes

Standing obligations on campus that Rev. Peck would have to fill in for? No

Pastor Jeremy stated the congregation will be focusing on gratitude during his sabbatical - Rev. Peck can work with Pastor on that.

Kristi told Rev. Peck July 4 we have, in the past, created a float, and no one has heard anything about that yet for 2022.

If the need arises, do we have any sort of eucharistic ministry, is there a lay team who delivers communion to the homebound? We used to before Covid.

Kristi mentioned our Friends Feeding Friends (FFF) ministry. She said it is an on-site ministry outreach team for the homeless, food for seniors. Pastor said our campus is busy from 9:45 to 12:30 p.m., wherein many people come in and out of our main office.

Scott advised we may have an American Red Cross blood drive during the sabbatical time.

Rev. Peck said his sermons are video recordings in Swedish, he does not have any available that the congregation could listen to. He has some English manuscripts he can share, but nothing recorded since his internship days. He is willing to come preach one Sunday for the congregation to meet him.

He prefers to be called Pastor Brandon.

Council would like for Rev. Peck to attend our Council meetings during the sabbatical time.

What do you think you can bring to our congregation?

Rev. Peck said gratitude is one of the main topics he teaches, with spiritual and theological output.

Pastor Brandon asked what gifts in music do we have?

Tom plays his guitar, and once a month we have an organist. Pastor Jeremy will show him how he handles worship and music.

Pastor Jeremy suggested Sundays be four working hours. Some time will be dedicated to office hours; Rev. Peck may write his sermons then.

The Zoom call with Rev. Peck ended.

Discussion: Payroll taxes, workers comp – where do the funds come from? Outside of the \$13,500 Pastor Peck would be paid? Kristi asked if that is the correct and legal way if we ask him to pay, or would we pay?

MOTION made by Kristi Buchholz to offer the 20-hour-per-week contract pastor position to Rev. Brandon Peck, at the base rate of \$13,500, beginning June 4 through August 30, 2022; seconded by Renee Reis; discussion; motion passed.

RECOGNITIONS

- Sue Hertless recognized the team who decorated the church for Christmas.
- Sue Hertless recognized and thanks the Council who walked the property to make notes and assessments about work that needs to be done on the property, and making suggestions on changes to bathrooms to make them gender neutral and ADA compliant.
- Sue Hertless recognized the thanks the Council for bringing and sharing food for our potluck lunch at the parsonage after the property tour, and she recognized and thanks Jessica Serrano for opening her home and hosting the lunch.
- Mike Henry recognized FFF for covering the cost of the debris/unusable furniture removal in front of Luther Hall.
- Mike Henry recognized all those who contribute time and effort cleaning up around the church grounds and parking lots.
- Scott Etzel recognized Dana Deniston and the FFF volunteers for their ongoing service to the community, with FFF programs distributing food, clothing, and furnishings to those in need.
- Renee Reis recognized Pastor Jeremy and Laura Mott for helping with organizing the Flamingo Fundraiser, and Susan Metzger for Flamingo support.

CORRESPONDENCE

- We received a letter from Bay Area Crisis Nursery thanking us for our \$300 donation earlier this year, and asking us to support the “Kindness Fund” to raise \$300,000 by the end of this year for critical services for those families struggling through the pandemic.
- We received a thank-you note from Monument Crisis Center thanking us for the donation of 50 Denny’s gift cards for families in crisis they serve at their Center.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION made by Kristi Buchholz to accept the November 9, 2021 Council Minutes; seconded by Candace Bradley; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor's Report

President's Report

- Sabbatical Coverage
- Property Walkthrough – Candace will send out notes to the group
- 2022 Council
Discussion on who is termed out. Do we decrease the size of Council? Kristi will make an announcement on Sundays asking if anyone has interest in joining Council in 2022.

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 asked if we need two dozen donuts a week for coffee time, or decrease the amount to one dozen? We pay about \$240 every three months for two dozen. It was suggested we reevaluate this situation after the holidays.

Evangelism – Sue Hertless

- Sue reported Evangelism is starting a scholarship program for children's education in El Salvador. The cost is \$30/month per child. We will sponsor 25 children at \$30/month, for a total of \$9,000/year.

Property and Long-Range Planning – Mike Henry

- Mike reported there has been dialogue with Contra Costa Environmental Health Department. There are approximately 14 days until plan check and potential final approval given for the Kitchen Remodel/Upgrade Project.

Social Ministry – Scott Etzel

- Scott reported we had 23 donations for the blood drive, with up to 47 donations for the year.

Youth – Renee Reis

- Renee reported there were six flamingo signups at coffee hour, and that this fundraiser will be exciting.

New Business:

- 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 to be held June 1-4, 2022, in Reno, Nevada.
- Kristi would like to schedule an Executive Committee meeting since we have not had one. She will contact the Executive Team via email.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by Kristi Buchholz to adjourn; seconded by Sue Hertless; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Date of next regular Council meeting – January 11, 2022, 7 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church