

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Concord, California

**Sixty-Eighth Annual Congregational Meeting**

February 6, 2022 – 11:15 AM via On-Line Zoom and Sanctuary

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

The 2022 Annual Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) was called to order at 11:25 AM on February 6, 2022, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

Opening prayer by Pastor Jeremy Serrano.

A quorum (minimum of 16 members) was established with 33 members in attendance in the sanctuary and via on-line Zoom.

**MOTION** made by Greg Buchholz to accept the February 6, 2022, Sixty-Eighth Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda; seconded by Tracy Rentner; motion passed.

Review of January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes, previously approved by GSLC Council.

**CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**Review Procedure / Zoom Ballot**

Kristi explained the voting procedure.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Kristi reported our Council as a whole worked as a nominating committee and reached out to congregation members. She asked for nominations from the floor - there were none.

**Introduction of Candidates**

Kristi said there are no new candidates to present. She asked if the congregation would like to hear from the current candidates, who are Sue Hertless (a third term), Candace Bradley (a third term), and Mike Henry (a second term). A vote was taken, and these three candidates were accepted back on Council.

## **REPORTS / UPDATES**

*(Some individual committee reports are contained within the Annual Report)*

### **Finance Committee Report / Budget**

Laura Mott thanked Susan Metzger, Financial Secretary, and Gordon Monroe, Marcia Sander, and Greg Buchholz, Finance Committee, for their work and efforts on the Finance Committee. She said they meet every month, and they are an excellent team.

Laura reported we are doing well as a church. She said there is also electronic giving, so you will not see that giving in the plate in church as it is passed on Sunday. She said we have some big projects coming up, and we have budgeted for them.

Scott thanked Laura and the Finance team, and said they do a good job of explanation, and he feels confident that we should vote affirmative on the budget proposal for 2022.

### **Pastor Jeremy Serrano Report**

Pastor Jeremy reported we are two years into the pandemic and it has been hard on everyone. We have done well in our ministry with FFF. He asked that, if we have a chance, to send Dana Deniston a card recognizing Dana and her team's efforts with FFF.

Pastor said last year we sent \$10,000 to El Salvador, and currently have about \$6,000 in the fund for El Salvador.

Pastor is happy with our church and our efforts together.

### **Social Ministries**

Scott reported he echoes what Pastor Jeremy said about Dana and FFF and how hard they work, especially during the pandemic. He encouraged people to volunteer with the FFF ministry. Scott is happy to see that people know they can come here for food.

Elsie Witt thanked the church for their support for the FFF program. She said there are people who are from other churches who volunteer here with our members, and there is a lot of outreach going on. It makes us stronger and bigger, and we are able to help our brothers and sisters in the community.

### **Evangelism**

Sue reported that \$10,000 was given to El Salvador last September. In January of this year, we wired \$10,000 to El Salvador to start a scholarship program. Sue said the people of El Salvador want to keep their people there, and this scholarship will help keep children in the program. The program includes English as a second language, Christian values, and music (singing or playing instruments). She reported that Christian

will be here for the Synod Assembly in June, and he will set aside some time then to speak with us. Sue would like to have two funds for Resurrection, one for the church for their ministries, and one for the schools.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation / Adoption of 2022 Budget**

Laura presented the 2022 Budget for a vote.

**MOTION** made by Greg Buchholz to accept the adoption of the 2022 budget; seconded by Gordon Monroe; discussion:

Mark Deniston thanked the church council, staff, and committee members for the last two years keeping the church moving. Mark had three points: On salaries, Mark asked what is pastor's salary, as we see the base salary on the worksheet - what else is in there? Pastor Jeremy explained his total compensation package is about \$90,000. He explained the Synod takes 30 percent off of that for housing. Pastor said the sheet includes housing, which is rent and utilities. He said the total number is the bigger number minus the 30 percent. Mark said we should be completely transparent. Pastor said the \$90,000 is in the Synod worksheet and given to the Council to approve. Marcia said the compensation worksheet was supposed to be included in the annual report. Pastor Jeremy said Gordon and Laura decided not to include it. Mark said the flamingos are a great idea, and the balance sheet shows over \$20,000 available, but that money should be used for the youth. Pastor Jeremy explained that fundraisers help to bring the congregation together, that they do not bring in too much money. Pastor said if there is no clear definition of funds, we cannot use that money for anything else besides the youth fund. Mark said with outreach ministries, we increased our Synod giving, but did not increase our other outreach programs (Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Interfaith Council, Lutheran Social Services, and Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp). Kristi clarified that the \$30,000 (from Council Minutes) was a suggested giving to the Synod, that the culture here would not allow that amount to be given to the Synod. Pastor said we are giving tons of money and putting back into the community. He said if we are not at 10 percent of our benevolence giving, we are close. Reyanne Freeman asked what the flamingo fund is, and Kristi clarified it is the fundraiser for our youth to attend the youth event in Minnesota this summer (Pastor announced during the service this event has been canceled). She explained that it is good for the youth to have a buy-in for their own events, with the flamingos. (Vicki Smiglewski asked what is happening with our heater – question tabled until later.)

Kristi asked if there were any other questions on the budget.

Motion passed.

## **Report of Council Elections**

Kristi confirmed that Candace Bradley, Sue Hertless, and Mike Henry will continue as council members.

**Congregation Authorization** for Council to approve today's Sixty-Eighth Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting.

**MOTION** made by Mark Deniston for Council to approve the February 6, 2022, Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting Minutes at its next regularly-scheduled Council meeting; seconded by Tracy Rentner; motion passed.

## **Selection of Two Lay Members for 2022 Synod Assembly**

Kristi reported the Synod Assembly starts the first weekend in June. Renee volunteered to be a delegate; Greg volunteered to be a delegate.

**MOTION** made by Reyanne Freeman to approve Renee Reis and Greg Buchholz to attend the 2022 Synod Assembly in Reno in June; seconded by Gordon Monroe; motion carried.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR CONGREGATIONAL INPUT (questions, ideas, comments)**

- Vicki asked what is happening with the heater in the sanctuary, as it is cold inside. Greg apologized for the issues, and explained there is a pump that has seized up, and the delay is finding parts for a 60-year-old system.
- Pastor Jeremy spoke about the Mutual Ministry Team (Tony Rogelstad, Candace Bradley, and Renee Reis), and said he is a benefit of this team. Pastor said you have to attach your name to your concerns if you come to this team for assistance.
- Pastor Jeremy said the Lilly Grant was approved for his sabbatical, and this will not cost the church anything. He described the three trips he plans to take while on sabbatical. Pastor said the Lilly Foundation believes this is a time of rest for a pastor. His sabbatical will occur June 5-August 28, 2022.

## **CLOSING PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Candace Bradley to adjourn; seconded by Tony Rogelstad; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM, with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church