

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Special Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Discussion of Church Budget**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 6 PM**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Special Church Council Meeting of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) was called to order at 6:12 PM on December 14, 2022, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

**Present:** Pastor Jeremy Serrano, Kristi Buchholz, Candace Bradley, Mike Henry, Renee Reis (Council);  
Greg Buchholz, Sherry Chaplin, Reyanne Freeman, Jon Moss, Linda Rodemsky, Marcia Sander (Finance Committee);  
Susan Metzger (Financial Secretary)

**Excused:** Scott Etzel, Sue Hertless (Council)

**DEVOTIONS** – Prayer by Pastor Jeremy

**MOTION** made by Jon Moss to approve the November 29, 2022 Special Budget Meeting Minutes, as written; seconded by Marcia Sander; motion passed.

Pastor Jeremy said that our purpose tonight is to go through the spreadsheet that Marcia produced and distributed, and try to make it balanced. Pastor asked Marcia if she could make some suggestions as to how to make the balancing happen. Candace said garbage will increase by 9% in 2023, and Marcia said our year-to-date (YTD) of \$7,100 will already cover that increase.

Marcia said she suggests adding \$15,000 to Investment Income, and add \$140 to an expense(s), or \$16,000 and \$1,140, etc. She said our investments are in mutual funds made up of stocks and bonds - both should be paying some dividends and interest during 2023.

Marcia said on the October YTD actual there are not the same line items in our budget as there are in the profit and loss (P&L) that we get from Jackie Forrester. There was a question on where to put the reconciliation discrepancies (expenses), that a discrepancy of \$1,100 is not included in that expense. Discussion.

Marcia said, in her opinion, the spreadsheet she populated with Council and the Finance Committee's input is pretty accurate. Greg said it appears that the total

numbers seem to be pretty accurate, and all agreed. Marcia said the numbers have to be right because they all have to balance to their specific accounts. Jon said he feels Marcia did the right thing with her calculations and suggestions, and all agreed.

Pastor Jeremy said Marcia has done an excellent job. Greg fully supports putting investment income back into the budget for Vanguard for 2023. Marcia has concerns about the Vanguard accounts, which should have gone down. In regards to the \$43,300 of Vanguard stocks sold for the reroofing project, income should have gone up.

Susan said she will notice this \$43,300 discrepancy and inform Jackie where it should be entered. Pastor Jeremy said Vanguard sent us a check, but he feels dividends should go directly into our account quarterly. Marcia said the question is, what did we actually get for 2022 for investment income, and Susan said the two checks we pulled out of Vanguard to pay the roofing bill.

Marcia suggests we make an endowment fund page for the annual report, and Jon agreed. Marcia said if you look on line, it says Vanguard pays dividends quarterly. She said without being able to get into the Vanguard accounts, we are just guessing.

Marcia said another option is to cut other items out of the expenses. She said we reduced the payroll taxes because we do not have an administrative position, so we lowered that projected amount. She said we also owe the second half of our property taxes, that Jackie paid only the first installment. Susan suggested that, if we get some extra money, we pay some to the outreach programs we canceled for 2023. Pastor Jeremy asked Candace to ask Jackie Forrester to pay the second half of the property bill (done as of this writing). Marcia said in the past we have always paid property taxes by the end of the year.

Marcia said now that this spreadsheet template has been set up this way, if we want to send an informational letter to the congregation, she will have the current numbers with our proposed budget. Pastor Jeremy said the proposed budget should go to the congregation as is, and updates can come later.

Kristi will call Vanguard tomorrow to check what they are doing with our dividends – reinvesting them? Jon said we should ask them to pay us out on those dividends.

Pastor Jeremy asked if we could make a motion to put in the investment amount of \$14,860 - no motion needed. Pastor said he knows someone at the synod office who said there were many churches last year who did not make contributions to the synod.

Marcia said our total budget will be \$227,860. Kristi said Council has not talked about raises for any of our employees. Pastor Jeremy said the likelihood of giving raises for 2023 is next to none.

Pastor Jeremy asked if we are all comfortable with the proposed budget. The teams are in agreement, and said Council can look at raises for next year.

**MOTION** made by Jon Moss to accept the budget, as amended, for presentation to the church Council for review; seconded by Renee Reis; no discussion; motion passed.

**Action Items:** None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made by Jon Moss to adjourn; seconded by Greg Buchholz; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church