

GSLC Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

June 13th, 2021

1. Welcome

It was suggested that we could hold the budget meeting between service since it tends to be shorter.

2. Reading of the Mission Statement

3. Opening Prayer

Tony Endozo offered prayer.

4. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Tony Endozo, Council President, at 12:03 PM

Quorum numbers:

5. Agenda

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Call to Order
- C. Budget Presentation and Vote
- D. Introduction of Pr. Ruth Hamilton
- E. COVID Task Force Update
- F. Housekeeping / Updates
- G. Results of Budget Vote
- H. Adjourn
- I. Closing Prayer

6. Budget

A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as presented.

Staff and their families were excused from this discussion.

Tony Endozo pointed out the main features of the budget.

Question from the congregation: What is the 'other income' line? Carrie Escamilla, congregation treasurer, explained that line was set last year when we were concerned that income would be less than expenses. This would have been taken from undesignated giving. However, these funds were not needed this year.

Tony Endozo pointed out that Preschool rent would be higher this year. We gave them a reduction of 50% on rent for two months. This year they have paid full rent each month and plan to continue. That is reflected in the income budget.

Tony Endozo went on to explain the part of the budget for rostered staff (pastor). This budget represents the expected compensation for the interim pastor. A member of the congregation asked about how expenses of the call committee have been included in the budget. Tony explained that has been included in the personnel budget. Carrie Escamilla explained that we are only estimating the cost since we don't know what our list of candidates might look like. We have much work to do before we start looking at candidates. It is possible we could go over budget. A significant overrun, \$5,000 or more, would have to be brought to the congregation. Tony Endozo explained that the budget presented today combines many parts of the budget into one.

Someone in the congregation asked about printing bulletins. She pointed out that we could make the experience as normal as possible by providing bulletins. Tony Endozo explained that this is many thousands of dollars each year. He said that they monitor how many were needed and will increase the number printed by the church. For the past few weeks we have not run out of bulletins to hand out.

Someone in the congregation asked about raises shown for the staff. She stated approval for that. Tony Endozo explained how the raises were determined. He mentioned the media coordinator as having been tremendously important this past year and continuing forward.

Tony Endozo discussed various congregation members that have stepped forward to help. He mentioned especially the treasurer, financial secretary, and the members of the personnel committee.

Ballots were passed out to voting members of the congregation and then collected.

7. Introduction of Pr. Ruth Hamilton

Pastor Ruth Hamilton was presented to the congregation by Tony Endozo.

Pastor Hamilton greeted the congregation and gave a brief biography. She discussed her objectives for the interim pastorate.

Further information was provided:

- Will begin serving as the Interim Pastor on June 15.
- B.A. degree from Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa.
- M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and a call from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke, Chicago, IL.
- Ordained in 2005.
- For twelve years, Pr. Hamilton was a member of the staff of the Churchwide ELCA Office of the Secretary, serving in various capacities, including Administrator of the Archives and Assistant to the Secretary.
- Served as Candidacy and Leadership Manager for Region 9 of the ELCA (the Southeast).

- Director for ministries in chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, and clinical education from March 2017-May 2021.
- Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Atlanta.
- Secretary of the Southeastern Synod.
- Interim Dean of Conference 3.
- Interim pastor at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta.
- Interim pastor at First United Lutheran Church, Kennesaw.
- Interim pastor at All Saints Lutheran Church, Lilburn.
- Prior to entering the ministry, Pastor Hamilton taught English language and literature at a number of colleges and universities and served on the staff of the Newberry Library in Chicago.
- Mother of sons Geoff (Maria) and Greg (Meredith) as well as the proud grandmother of Teddy (8).

8. COVID Taskforce Update

John Bost presented an update from the COVID taskforce. He discussed the following points:

- Major changes from the CDC on COVID-19 Recommendation:
- CDC revised hard surfaces risk of transfer from “possible” to “generally considered to be low”.
- 1 in 10,000 chance of transfer.
- Routine use of disinfectants not needed
- CDC released new guidelines for persons who have been vaccinated removing mask use and social distancing.
- Non vaccinated person should continue with mask and social distancing.
- Church to accommodate.

John Bost then presented graphs of COVID rates, discussing how the changes in rates have led to our current reopening.

9. Housekeeping / Updates

Tony presented the following points;

- Sunday Servants
We are moving back to our previous mode of scheduling.
- Stewardship Comm.
Time & Talents forms due 6/27
- Faith Formation Comm.
Need feedback from parents and youth
- Facilities & Maintenance Comm.
Parking lot project. The repaving and patching will take place in July and August. The parking lot will mostly be open during this period.
- Personnel Committee
Open Office Coordinator position update. Several candidates have been interviewed so far.

Jaime Escamilla pointed out that we are only \$3,000 behind budgeted income at this point. He thanked the congregation for our generosity.

10. Results of Budget Vote

The congregation approved the budget unanimously 46 aye and 0 nay.

11. Adjournment

Moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed.

12. Closing Prayer

Pastor Hamilton offered prayer and blessing.