



Minutes of the Congregational Meeting November 14, 2021

Roll Call

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 by Council President Tony Endozo.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Ruth Hamilton offered prayer.

Tony asked that members wait to be recognized before speaking.

Reading of the mission statement

"We are called, gathered and blessed to be a community and instrument of grace for all sheep of the Good Shepherd."

Approval of Agenda

Tony presented the agenda to the meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Review and Approval of Minutes from 6/13/21 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Minutes were included in the Annual Report document and were posted on the Good Shepherd web site. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review and Approval of Minutes from 11/15/20 Called Congregational Meeting

Minutes were posted on the Good Shepherd web site. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election: New Congregation Council Members - Vote for 4 adults and 1 youth

Ballots were distributed to all voting members.

Tony thanked the outgoing council members: Izzy Freeman, Gina Crittenden, Cathy Mattocks, Jaime Escamilla.

The new elected members are: Holly Jones, Barb Kidder, Matthew Provost, Sharron Ryan; Alena Ezell as youth representative

Vote on Council's Recommended Amendments to the GSLC Constitution

The text of a motion to amend the constitution was posted on the Good Sheperd web site.

These amendments align our constitution with the 2019 ELCA model constitution. Tony read the amendments. The first dealt with calling special meetings. The second dealt with holding electronic meetings. The third amendment set up a nominating committee. The fourth amendment states that the pastor and council president be ex-officio members.

Tony explained what ex-officio means. This is particularly important for those committees which people may not nominate themselves into (such as the personnel committee). This does not require their attendance. They will be voting members. Committee votes will not necessarily need approval of the congregation. Important actions will be reported to the congregation.

A question was asked about the nominating committee. Currently the council creates a list of nominees for the council.

The motion was made in meeting and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Call Process Update

Tony asked the members of the call committee to stand to be recognized. He noted that they had their first official meeting this past Thursday. Trina Hutchinson will chair the committee and Mike McCoy will be secretary.

Pastor Ruth discussed the questions for the Appreciative Inquiry process. She pointed out that these questions have been published in various places. She urged everyone to read the questions and think about them. The call committee and the council will be interviewing congregation members to get input about the church and the call from each member. We hope to finish the AI process by the end of December.

Financial Update

Tony presented the overall results.

Our year-to-date cashflow is \$2,200. Tony explained how that has varied in the past few months. We did have to borrow against our reserves in September to meet expense obligations. We now have positive cash flow again.

Tony presented graphs showing the annual giving in different years. He noted that our expenses have been lower as we recover from the Covid time.

Our giving was slow in August and September but we have seen more giving in October.

Tony urged us all to become more engaged.

Personnel Update

Tony discussed our new front office coordinator Maureen Harkins. He thanked the personnel committee for their successful effort in filling that position.

We are seeking to fill the position that Cat Ontiveras resigned. We are redesigning the position. We are looking at several places for suitable candidates.

COVID Update

Tony presented the data about new cases. The new cases and percent positivity have decreased significantly. The percent positivity is about %2 in Cherokee county. This is well below the threshold for moving away from restrictions. He also noted that surface contact is not a great risk for spreading Covid, so we have reflected that in our practices like communion and passing the offering plate.

Lutheran Coalition for Habitat for Humanity

Max Epling and Mike Dooley presented information about Habitat for Humanity. The Lutheran Coalition has about 11 churches.

The primary need from this congregation is people to be involved. Good Shepherd participation has decreased over the years. They asked for folks to consider participating. They emphasized that you don't need particular skills to join in.

There is also a need for funding since the major fundraiser, Taste of Habitat, had to be cancelled the last two years due to COVID. Max and Mike urged members to support the next fundraiser by purchasing "Untaste" tickets.

Max and Mike promised to remain in the narthex after the meeting to answer questions.

Election Results

The new elected members are: Holly Jones, Barb Kidder, Matthew Provost, Sharron Ryan; Alena Ezell as youth representative

Closing Comments

Tony reminded the members to find out about the call process, especially reading the questions for the AI process.

Mr. John Mao asked that we take time to give thanks to the Lord. He suggested that we could show our thanks on Thanksgiving Eve at the service then. He also mentioned the stewardship efforts in the congregation. We have to show to others the love that God has shown us.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Ruth offered prayer and blessing.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourned. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:51.