

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2024 @ 6:00pm Admin Building

Mission Statement: Worshiping and growing together in Christ serving and reaching out joyfully to all.

Vision Statement: Trusting God + Loving the World

Decisions Made: A motion was passed to authorize fundraising for Phase Two of the sound system project.

The council retreat was scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd from 9 AM to 1 PM at the church.

Present: Kathleen Clark, President; Michael Boehm, Vice-President; Tom Teske, Secretary (via Zoom); Scott Ikeberry, Treasurer; Melinda Powelson, Personnel; Susan Linner, At Large Member; Taz Walkowich, At Large Member; Pastor Julie Brooks; Pastor Kim Gonia.

Call to Order: Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Michael prayed that God would help the council to discern God's will in our discussions.

Book Discussion: Pastor Julie led the discussion of chapter 10, "Streamlining Organization" from the book Kicking Habits by Thomas G. Bandy. Some members thought that Holy Shepherd is doing some of the suggestions made in the chapter. Several small groups are functioning well without council oversight. Some of Bandy's perceptions were questioned (such as taking financial management away from the board, or minimizing the role of the traditional choir). Our council seems to be comfortable focusing on moving into the future. While membership at the church has its advantages, Holy Shepherd does a good job of incorporating guests in meaningful ways in its ministry.

Reports:

Treasurer Report: While no written report was available, Scott reported that in 2023 we received a \$400,000 gift for a new organ, the new carpet was installed, and in 2024 we will add a new sound system. The church continues to be in solid financial condition. Scott also discussed the role of Melanie in the financial reporting. He also observed that 25% of the annual insurance premium is due in January.

Pastor Kim reported on her work with the Mission Committee, which is taking a careful look at itself. She has also been working with the Navarra family. She is also beginning a support network of folks working on assisting asylum seekers. She also discussed our work with the Kella family. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the congregation were made aware of how these projects are progressing.

Pastor Julie described her four main areas of responsibility as Administration (including hiring a sound tech and working on job descriptions), Leadership (such as working with the Vision Team and attending a synod council meeting), Preaching (including working on the worship survey and Lenten planning), and Pastoral Care (including visits and calls and coordination with the Caring Ministry Team).

Continuing Business:

The congregation approved the funding for Phase One of the sound system, and Diane will prepare a gentle fundraising campaign for Phase Two. Scott moved that the council approve fundraising for Phase Two,

seconded by Michael. The motion was adopted unanimously. The general opinion was to try to do the entire project at one time if possible.

More information is needed from the Trust Team regarding possible changes in their responsibilities or operation.

New Business:

It was decided to hold the council retreat on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 AM to 1 PM (including lunch). There will be no regular Tuesday evening meeting in March.

The group discussed the concept of stewardship and the fact that it has been several years since there was a strong push. The focus would probably be on generosity, not only financially, but all that it means to be involved in a faith community. This will be further discussed at the retreat.

Kathleen brought up the possibility of English Language Classes (English as a Second Language). Council members supported the idea.

A brief discussion followed about the possibility of a church game night.

If possible, it might be helpful to have the pastors' reports prior to the meeting.

Closing Prayer:

Adjournment: 7:45

Next Meeting: Retreat, Saturday, March 23rd, 9 AM to 1 PM.

Impact Statement: *How does this council's discussion impact our part of the world?*

Various discussions centered around ways in which Holy Shepherd could reach out beyond our walls into the community at large. (This clearly seems to be an important and growing focus at Holy Shepherd.)

Approval of minutes: March 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Teske, Secretary

COUNCIL CORNER: notes from February 13th, 2024 council meeting

The Church Council welcomed newly-elected officers Kathleen Clark (President), Michael Boehm (Vice-President), and Tom Teske (Secretary), who, along with Scott Ikeberry (Treasurer), Melinda Powelson (Personnel), Susan Linner (At-Large member) and Taz Walkowich (At-Large member), along with advisory members Pastor Julie Brooks and Pastor Kim Gonia, make up the 2024 Church Council. The council authorized fundraising for Phase Two of the sound system project, realizing that money would be saved by doing the entire project at the same time (Phase One had been approved at the annual meeting in January). They also set aside four hours on Saturday, March 23rd for a council retreat. Scott reported that the church is in good financial condition, thanks to the continuing generosity of our members and friends.