

## Shepherd of the Hills Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

Our Mission Statement: To make disciples for Christ beginning in our congregation and continuing in our community, our country, and the world.

Rooted in God's Word, by trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us, members will be equipped to be Disciples of Jesus Christ, to reach and compassionately serve the needs of our community.

CALL TO ORDER: by Vice President Warren Bey at 6:35pm.

PRESENT: Pastor Baumgarn, Warren Bey, Carolyn Bey, Mark Wrolstad, John and Karen Gardner, Terry Ours, Jana Underkofler, Sue Mravik, Linda Trautmann, John Berg, Kyle Janzen, Martha Keeffe.

ABSENT: Shawn Mahoney (excused) and Kay Conzemius (excused) and Kevin Keeffe.

- 1) OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor Baumgarn spoke of the Tower of Babel, that it was not intended to exalt God nor the Church of God, but to exalt their own names. Pastor prayed that God helps us to LISTEN to the WORDS of JESUS.
- 2) APPROVAL FOR MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY MEETING: Minutes were accepted as corrected for a spelling error.
- 3) TREASURER'S REPORT: Mark reported that we are starting off very well---The Total Ministry Support Received was \$45,688. The Total Ministry Expense was \$37,070. The Total Ministry Support Received/Budget was 108%. And the Total Ministry Expense/Budget was 71%. We also paid \$3,229 extra off the debt which means our Congregational Long Term Debt is almost less than \$500,000, at \$501,722!
- 4) OLD BUSINESS:
  - a) PASTOR CALL UPDATE: John Gardner reported that there is currently no word from Pastor Willie as we only sent out the papers for his review about a week ago, and the review should take about two weeks. The Call Committee discussed having an outreach to all church members who have not returned to church in the last several years, which will be discussed later in the meeting.
  - b) BY-LAWS UPDATE: John Berg reported that they have a good diverse group and they will be meeting twice a month to begin at the beginning. They will be using The Synod's copy of Constitution and By-laws as a guide and will be looking for the best practices to adapt. Pastor joined them last meeting which was good timing considering the subject they were studying. Members of the group are now John Berg, Jerry Paul, Ron Smith, Patty Ludington, and Mindy Braun.
- 5) MINISTRY REPORTS:
  1. ELDERS: Terry Ours reported that no one seems to be consistently manning the Welcome Center before and after Worship. New people come in and do not know what to look for or what to pick up. Someone will check with D.J. to find more information. We also need to fill out the Member's Card in the pews every Sunday including our address to encourage guests to fill in the address as well as their name. If they see we do not fill in our address, they take that as an example and do the same leaving us no way to get in touch with them. We also need Greeters at both entry doors, but we cannot even get anyone to usher. These are things for us to work on.

2. MUSIC: no report.
  3. TRUSTEES: Kyle Janzen reported that the Narthex lighting is approved and has been funded by a very generous donation. Work is already in progress installing the lights. They are getting bids to install stained glass windows in the four windows at the front of the Sanctuary currently being covered by curtains. Thanks to a generous donation all or part of the cost will be covered. They are also looking into better lighting up front of the church for the podium at Pastor's request.
  4. EDUCATION: Karen Gardner announced that the Lenten calendars are here and will be handed out at church services. Reporting of additional business is attached.
  5. PRE-SCHOOL: Linda Trautmann announced that the Pre-school fund raiser was very successful. More people were in attendance than ever before with over 200 people there. They brought in about \$7,000. Dad's night was also well attended with 22 out of 27 dads or grandpas participating. Mom's night is coming up. There are already 12 kids signed up to attend next school year.
  6. EVANGELISM: no report.
  7. YOUTH: no report.
  8. STEWARDSHIP: no report.
  9. FELLOWSHIP: Jana Underkofler reported that they would like to do a survey to find times for events that will work for all. There will be a form at the Welcome Center for those who wish to fill it out. The survey can then be put in the box by the office. Time Changer was a good movie and there could be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Changer available soon. So far 50 people have signed up for Rob's music and meal night. Game Day is scheduled for Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 offering cards, Bunco, Dominos, or bring your favorite game to play. A light lunch will be available before Saturday Night Church. An Open Gym will be held for preschoolers and their families on March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 11:30am. They are also looking into the Heider Center, offering "A Tribute to John Denver" on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. There will be a sign-up sheet for this. The Easter Egg Hunt is April 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 10am. If Fellowship is interested in The Passion of Christ, someone else will have to coordinate this as Jana will be away on vacation.
  10. COMMUNICATIONS: no report.
  11. DEAF MINISTRY & LWML: no report
  12. HUMAN CARE: report attached.
- 6) NEW BUSINESS:
1. The Church Council shall appoint a financial review committee, with members other than the treasurer and financial secretary, on an annual basis. This committee should examine the financial records for the past year and report findings to the church council and/or voters' assembly in a timely manner. It is recommended that select agreed upon audit procedures be performed by an outside CPA firm every 4 years. John Berg spoke to Tammy and she strongly recommends we do this. After some discussion, it was agreed that John Gardner, Sue Mravik, and Jana Underkofler will look into this.
  2. PARENTING PLACE FAMILY EXPO: Sue Mravik reported that this family fun expo is on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 4pm at the Omni Center. Should we participate with a booth? It is \$350 for non-profit. If we want to add something in Goodie bags, it would be \$50. We can also do a display advertising in the annual guide for a fee of \$495 for a half page or \$795 for a full page. Since this is coming up fast, we decided to put this on the back burner for next year. It would be helpful for several council members to attend this and check it out.

3. OUTREACH TO NON-ATTENDING MEMBERS: John Gardner would like this outreach to be taken over by someone other than the Elders. They could phone, send cards, text with the message we miss you and would like to have you join us again for worship and fellowship. John would like to see this done before the new pastor gets here so he doesn't have to start out doing this himself. Sue said she would talk to Linda Vetsch and see what they could plan out.
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINDY BRAUN AS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE: There was a motion to this effect, seconded and approved by vote.
5. HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR PASTOR: MOTION BY JOHN BERG TO ESTABLISH THE PASTORS HOUSING ALLOWANCE AT 60% OF TOTAL CASH COMPENSATION FOR 2023: Pastor agreed to this, the motion was so made, seconded and approved by a vote.
- 7) GOOD OF THE GROUP: John Berg reported that there was a complaint about no retroactive pay in the last paycheck. It was decided that, for this year only we would satisfy the expectation for pay retroactive to January 1. Going forward, any pay raises would go into effect after the voters approve the new budget for the New Year. No more retroactive stipends will be given.  
The protocol for bad weather was discussed. The council agreed to cancel Bible studies for Wednesday and Thursday, plus The Wednesday Night Ash Wednesday Service on the 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month due to forecasted dangerous weather for our area. Martha would get the word out as best as she could in the morning.  
John Gardner let us know the Christian School Project is temporarily on hold because Gift of Grace will not be holding their Voter's Meeting until sometime in March.  
Several council members pointed out that the sign for our church is looking pretty shabby. It was pointed out the cost for an electronic sign would be about \$40,000. There are funds available. Mark expressed concern that we not spend our safety net, with a new pastor being called, we want to be sure to have enough funds to support him and his family. Perhaps we could have a fundraiser, with a picture of the new sign, we could get support this way.
- 8) CLOSING PRAYER: Mark Wrolstad

ADJOURN: 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Bey, Secretary.