

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021 @ 6:30pm

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<u>BOARD MEMBERS:</u>	<u>TERM DATES</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>GUESTS:</u>
Dave Webb, Chair	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	- Pastor Brice Bloxham
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair	2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	-Sister Tashina Good
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Maria Miller, Secretary	2020; 2021	X	
Kristen Goligowski, At- Large	2020; 2021	-	
Chriss Latterell, At-Large	2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Lynn Mears, At-Large	2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Sally Peters, At-Large	2021	X	
Pastor Renee Patterson		X	

Opening Prayer & Mini Devotional Acts 2:1-21 (Pastor Brice)

Check-in: *What have we missed about how we used to do things here at church and what we like about the new way we are doing things?*

-Missed: Both Pastors whole-heartedly miss serving communion and we miss having communion together in our traditional way; missing congregational singing together and the variety of music during worship; and hugs!

-Like: Parking Lot Worship was the most common response, along with enjoying online worship and creating a “home church”. Appreciating the staff and their adaptability to all the challenges, Sr. Tashina felt like that the hybrid and online confirmation program got her more connected with the parents.

Recognition emails

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Maria Miller)

- Motion to approve April minutes by Deb Kohen, seconded by Dave Webb; Board approved.

Financial Report (Elizabeth Kohen)

- The April financial report was reviewed and approved.
 Motion to accept April financial report by Lynn Mears, seconded by Chriss Latterell; Board approved.

○ Summary/ Discussion:

-We were \$19,000 behind in April giving, but we are projected to meet or exceed contributions for May. That increase in giving along with the matching funds campaign, and a medallion stock transfer in, we are looking much better in May.

- Miranda called attention to the fact that many people have given their annual donation now because taxes are due. Miranda and the finance team will look more into how this fits into the future budget.

-At the end of April, we had \$410,765 in cash:

- \$350,243 in our operating checking account; \$83,385 of this amount is already allocated in designated giving.
- The Finance team is inviting a Thrivent rep to their June meeting to determine how they should be investing in the funds that have not been allocated.
- Also during this meeting, the initial 2022 budget will be discussed.

-We have \$26,284 in our Endowment. Dave suggests that we share this information with the congregation on a regular basis to help people keep that in their mind. The fund report update comes out quarterly.

*We are grateful that we are still able to lean into the call to support our mission partners during this time.

-For bulletin: While April's giving was less than expected, we remain hopeful for a strong May. We are grateful for the "Building Hope" campaign initiative and the financial footings that it has provided our community.

Holy Hammers/Stimulus matching funds ("Building Hope initiative") update (Pastor Brice) Final total was over \$28,000. Holy Hammers will receive over \$14,000 and the SOTH general fund will also receive over \$14,000.

COVID plan options for reopening the church conversation:

Knowing that we have been using the science and data that the CDC and MDH have offered as guidelines for **how** and **why** we do things...and now knowing that both of those organizations have said that the science and data now support the removal/cessation of face mask requirements and social distancing means we have some decisions to make.

- Discussion of mask requirement/ distancing for our community.

Management recommendations:

-Sister Tashina believes that we should keep the masks. Concern for the children and for those who have not been vaccinated.

-Pastor Brice is trying to base his decisions on the science. He would hope people will follow the guidelines set by the CDC and their comfort level.

-Pastor Renee wants to create a space without fear. Feels like the 8am service could be mask optional and leave the 10am outdoor worship for long as possible.

On average the 8am indoor is 35 people whom Pastor Renee believes would come regardless of mask rules.

Discussion of options that were brought forth:

A. Masks are optional and encouraged/welcome:

Timing to change mask policy vote:

May 30th (to allow a week to communicate the change) -- 5 votes (+Kristen per email)

Mid-June (school is out, more vaccinations) – 3 votes

July (MN herd-immunity, more vaccinations) – 2 votes

B. Designated area in the sanctuary that must wear a mask to create a “safe space”.

-People in this section must be masked.

Action Plan:

Pastor Renee and team will create communications to announce at this upcoming weekend, a Facebook video, and on the eNews to share that starting May 30th masks will be optional and we will have safe zone/ mask only area in sanctuary.

-Important points to communicate:

We want to make sure that people know that wearing a mask is welcomed and encouraged, especially to protect our younger members and any unvaccinated people.

Communicate the normalizing of wearing masks if you have cold symptoms or for your personal comfort levels.

No stigma for wearing or not wearing the mask.

Reminder to people that we could find the need to tighten our mask policy in the future as recommended.

Ask people around you what their mask preference is.

(re)Connecting events/initiatives for 2021:

- Coffee & Donuts (with real donuts) outside is successful
- Season of Service projects
- June 6th: Graduation Sunday
- June 8th: Emmy Kegler – Book study author speaker (Sr. Tashina will check if we can live stream)
- June 10th: Kingdom Kids event
- June 17th: Pour Theology at Shore 96 in Shoreview

St. Paul Area Synod Assembly Nominations: Congregation member, Sue Fairchild, was nominated onto the Consultation Committee of the Synod and Sr. Tashina is the Deacon Representative of the Synod Council. Congratulations!

Closing Prayer (Sister Tashina)

Next meeting: June 15 @ 6:30pm

Submitted by: Maria Miller