

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2021 @ 6:30pm via Zoom**

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<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b>	<b>TERM DATES</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>GUESTS:</b>
Dave Webb, Chair	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	- Pastor Brice Bloxham
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair	2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Gayle Nelson, Interim Secretary		X	
Kristen Goligowski, At- Large	2020; 2021	X	
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 Mark 9:38-50** led by Pastor Renee

When have you encountered a stumbling block? What was that experience like?

- We discussed frustrations with work, having to do things a different way. Spoke of the people in Haiti, Afghan refugees and the stumbling blocks they experience. Pastor Renee asked what’s at stake when we can’t overcome stumbling blocks? “I think Jesus had in mind much bigger stumbling blocks than we experience,” things like limbs being cut off.

**Personal check-in**

Why are you Lutheran? Our newsletter theme this month is “what is your story” and I thought it might be interesting to hear why being a Lutheran (or remaining Lutheran) is important to each of you.

- Several people commented that they were raised Lutheran and love the inclusiveness and joy of being Lutheran. Several commented on how important Shepherd of the Hills is to them and how it is their church home. Others mentioned how important Luther’s teachings are to their faith; Luther’s essay, “Freedom to be a Christian” was one important influence.

**Notes of Recognition**

Lynn and Sally volunteered to take on writing and sending the thank you notes moving forward.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** (Gayle Nelson)

No further discussion or questions.

- Motion to approve August minutes; Board approved.

**Financial Report** (Elizabeth Kohen)

**Discussed the August report.** This month we were \$24,000 behind budget. For the year to date, we are about \$80,000 behind in giving. We've been able to rely on the preschool to fill the giving gap. (Jilene applied for a COVID grant, and lots of families signed up at the end of August.)

Discussed thoughts about why member giving is down. First, loose change offering is gone, and that has been \$30-40,000/year. Other thoughts were shared. Have people lost jobs due to COVID? Have people left over RIC (Reconciling in Christ)? No one knows, but people are grateful the financial situation isn't worse.

- The August financial report was reviewed and approved.
- Motion to accept August financial report by Chriss, seconded by Kristen; Board approved by voice vote.

**Discussed the budget for 2022.** Treasurer Elizabeth shared the numbers. The preschool is the biggest change—we expect it to run a profit of about \$92,000 in 2022. We calculated a 6% reduction in giving and reduced property improvements by \$8,000, but increased mission expense by \$3,000. With that, we project our expenses as \$5,000 more than money brought in.

<b>2022 Budget (Proposed)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income	1,297,330
Expense	1,302,295
Total	(4,965)

Last year, we had special giving for 20/20 Hindsight. Do we need something like that? Discussed whether we need to ask for more money. Instead, maybe we should use our reserves (about \$394,000). Someone raised our old metric of a 90-day reserve—the goal was to have reserves that would enable us to run the church for 90 days. It was pointed out that today we have about 120 days/four months in reserves. Pastor Renee noted that when we stopped tracking reserves, we had plenty.

- Motion to bring forward the 2022 budget: Chriss, seconded by Sally. Discussion? What about youth numbers? There's quite a gap here (- \$11,277). There's an ELCA event in Minneapolis, and we do want to do a mission trip. Sister Tashina requested some designated funds (from Lesley Lundmark's estate), and the Finance Committee approved more dollars.
- Vote: All in favor of the 2022 budget with this revision say aye (all); opposed? (silence). The budget passed with the revision.

Any questions on the staff reports?

- Music candidate: We have 5-6 viable candidates and will start making phone calls.
- We will give Koreann a gift certificate on her last day with us (October 3).

Elizabeth brought up an item from the Finance team's meeting that the Governing Board may need to vote on: A gift of burial plots. The Gifts team recommends we donate this gift to congregation members as needed.

- Discussion: Does it have to be donated to members? Not sure.

- Motion on the floor to approve a discretionary gift of four burial plots. Elizabeth moved, Dave seconded. No additional discussion. Voted by raising hands; all voted to accept.

Last item of discussion: Ideas for topics for the newsletter article from the Board.

Suggestions:

- Deb needs to set up a nominating committee. Are people interested in serving on the committee or on the Board? Would like this in the newsletter in October.
- Rally Day was a great success—an article on that and the Season of Service.
- Trunk 'n' Treat. We need about 30-35 people to donate trunks and treats on October 31 (also Reformation Sunday).

**We closed with prayer.**

Next meeting: October 19 @ 6:30pm

Submitted by: Gayle Nelson