

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2021 @ 6:30pm via Zoom

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BOARD MEMBERS:	TERM DATES	ATTENDANCE	GUESTS:
Dave Webb, Chair	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	- Pastor Brice Bloxham - Sister Tashina
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair	2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Gayle Nelson, Interim Secretary	2021	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 10:46-52 led by Pastor Brice

- How would you describe the voices around you concerning your efforts to follow Jesus? Encouraging? Curious? Dismissive? Belittling?
- What can we learn from Bartimaeus’ response to the voices around him?

Personal check-in

What is one of the simplest things in your life that you are most grateful for?

- Answers included sunshine, views from decks, long walks and nature. Dave mentioned his letter of retirement (from his job) after listening to a recent sermon by Pastor Brice. Others (notably, the three youngest members of the group) mentioned technology—Google Photos, Facetime (for keeping in touch over COVID).

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 September minutes; Elizabeth moved, Chriss seconded; Board approved.

Financial Report (Elizabeth Kohen)

Discussed the September report. In September, we were behind in member giving by \$12,500, which is 19.7% of the anticipated monthly giving. YTD giving is 14.6% behind budget. If we remain at a 14% reduction, we will end the year with \$799,207 in member giving: \$130,103 behind our annual budgeted giving (\$929,310). We

ended September with a deficit of \$4,528, while we budgeted for a deficit of \$3,392, for an unfavorable variance of \$1,136. We had lower giving, but we also had lower expenses.

We have 109 days of cash on hand.

Discussed expenses. Communion cups even out with what we'd normally pay for communion. (Pastor Brice later reported the cost is \$100 per 500 cups.) With COVID, we've been able to postpone carpet replacement expenses, but the building is now being used a lot on Saturdays and Sundays.

In 2022, we will be adding a line item for grants, including Thrivent grants, other grants for preschool, and grants that Miranda finds and applies for.

Motion to approve the finance report by Lynn, Deb seconded, approved with a vote.

Any questions on the staff reports?

- Music candidate: We had a great candidate, but that person accepted another offer before we made our offer. Starting all over again, though we may post for a worship director only, not a worship director/organist. Jean has agreed to stay until end of May if needed, which everyone agreed was wonderful. Brainstormed other ideas: What about music teachers who might be willing to do this part-time? Perhaps ¾ time? What about colleges, seminaries?
- Discussed Sister Tashina's report and low attendance at ReFuel. Kids are busy with school, other activities, even with COVID. Disappointing, and would like to know how we can get more kids involved.
- The Nominating committee is in place. They will nominate members to replace Chriss Latterell as member-at-large and Gayle Nelson as secretary. If anyone is interested in serving, please contact Deb or another Governing Board member. If a youth (confirmed member) is interested in serving on the GB, the bishop will need to sign off on it first. (Shepherd's constitution doesn't allow for it at this time.)

Last item of discussion: Discussed our Welcoming Statement. Dave reminded us that at our 2021 annual meeting (via Zoom) we promised we'd discuss this. He wants to be sure the congregation has had enough opportunities to discuss. Pastor Renee had discussed with members in one-on-one conversations after the meeting. We had a book study (*One Coin Found* by Emmy Kegler). Discussed opportunities given, and noted COVID did make it awkward to have a large group discussion. (Currently, the maximum in the sanctuary is 150 people with distancing.) Also discussed:

- How do we live that statement, so it's a part of everything we do and not something we just talk about twice a year?
- What does the welcoming statement mean in practical terms? Are we supposed to solicit gay and transgender people to attend services? We are a welcoming church without it. What do we do with it so it's not just a politically correct statement on our web site?
- All are welcome, but we understand that hasn't always been the case. We want to be sure that we're not marginalizing people from other groups, especially groups that have not been welcomed in the past.
- Compare this to our mission statement—how we worked that into all we did. We'd talk about planning an event and ask ourselves, does this help us reach out, ignite, and empower people for Jesus? Similar to this, how do we make sure people know they are welcome here?
- Is there anyone we have marginalized, are there any barriers that we haven't even thought of? For example, family/gender-neutral bathrooms?

Suggestions for newsletter article:

- Trunk 'n' Treat, Pies for Praise, Advent-to-Go, other events coming up. Pies for Praise must be store-

bought and brought to church in the original containers in which they were purchased.

- Write about encouraging discussion around our welcoming statement.

We closed with prayer. Sister Tashina “prayed us out.”

Next meeting: November 16 @ 6:30 pm

Submitted by: Gayle Nelson