

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
December 21, 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
Deb Kohen, Vice Chair	2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	- Sister Tashina
Elizabeth Kohen, Treasurer	2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	- Joshua Koepp
Gayle Nelson, Interim Secretary	2021	X	
Kristen Goligowski, At- Large	2020; 2021	X	
Chriss Latterell, At-Large	2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021		
Lynn Mears, At-Large	2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021	X	
Sally Peters, At-Large	2021		
Pastor Renee Patterson		X	

Opening Prayer & Mini Devotional Luke 2:1-20 led by Pastor Renee

Personal check-in

What is your favorite part of Christmas?

- God and the Gospel of John.
- Without Christmas we wouldn't have Easter.
- A chance to stop, turn around, look, and be thankful.

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 November minutes; Elizabeth moved, Deb seconded; Board approved.

Financial Report (Elizabeth Kohen)

- Motion to approve November financial; Kristin moved, Lynn seconded.

Discussed the November report.

- Still solid numbers.
- Contribution totals and the gap of \$40,000 in actual versus budget seemed stark. But some of the factors in this are: we budgeted \$10,000 in stock transfers, but we didn't receive any; around 25% of the gap is due to the contributions from the last Sunday in November not making it to the bank in time for reporting.

- Coming up in December, we'll have the cost of the new projector, which is about \$17,500. The new furnace (HVAC) was about \$7,000, so this is about \$25k in unbudgeted expenses. We will get a grant in 2022 for the HVAC (thank you, Miranda!). We are projecting that we'll finish the year around \$5-10k in the black.
- Deb: Kudos to staff and the Finance committee for coming in so close in their budgeting!
- Pastor Renee commented that this was the third year in a row that we've thought fourth quarter results would be really great. "I have to remember not to be disappointed with the end of year numbers. \$5-10,000 in the black is great."
- Dave: We are in a good spot, especially with this being the second year with Covid; so thankful for our staff, so much to be thankful for. Staff bonuses came through in December as a designated expense on next year's/January's statements. This was due to an extremely generous donation by an anonymous donor.
- Discussed the financial statement that will appear in the bulletin.
- Want to note that Sue Fairchild has served on the St. Paul Area's Synod capital campaign for the last three years. They are asking churches to make a commitment. We have been committing dollars, but this year not much more than before due to the uncertainty. Pastor Renee will be attending their meeting.
- The Board approved the finance report with a voice vote.

Any questions on the staff reports?

- Our nominee for the secretary position, Joshua Koepp, attended this meeting as part of the transition. Pastor Renee explained how staff reports are sent to the governing board about a week before the monthly meeting for the GB to read ahead of the meeting.
- Dave commented that he's noticed a lot of white vans in the parking lot lately. True Light has a van. Timber Bay is a ministry of the Youth Investment Foundation, an organization of dedicated youth workers committed to personal, ongoing mentorship with young people. They asked if they could park their van here (they use the vans to transport youth to retreats and camp outings). Pastor Renee noted we can use their vans if needed. Sister Tashina commented that we have borrowed True Light's van several times. This works well for us, and they are generous about lending.
- Sister Tashina brought up our winter book study on Christian ethics and Lutherans are supposed to do with moral questions. The book is *I Can Do No Other* by Anna M. Madsen. It will kick off January 5-6, and we are excited for any and all who will be joining us!
- Miranda's report introduced a new Hmong church, Church of Living God, which started meeting on December 5 in Mission Chapel on Sundays at 3:00 pm.
- Pastor Renee noted that Jean will relaunch the search for a worship director. If you've read the job description and think it can be improved, please let her know.

Shepherd Annual Meeting, voting, and ratifying constitution change.

- Deb noted that Anna Grace has been nominated to serve in the open member-at-large position. She is in high school and plans to attend GB meetings via Zoom when she leaves for college in the fall. Joshua Koepp, who has been nominated for the secretary position, joined us at this meeting, so he introduced himself to the group. Joshua, his wife Sarah, and two sons, Braden and Cullen, began attending church at Shepherd about 13 years ago. He is active in Scouts and enjoys volunteering as Scoutmaster for his boys' troop. Joshua teaches psychology for Hennepin Technical College and enjoys reading, contemplative practices, and fishing.
- Deb and Brice are tasked with reminding Pastor Renee to print the ballots. Dave and Elizabeth will also be on the ballot. They are volunteering to serve another term. (Thank you, Dave and Elizabeth!)
- The congregation needs to vote on the ratification of the constitution changes that were approved at our 2021 Annual Meeting. Sister Tashina explained the two-step process: The congregation approved the changes by vote at the 2021 Annual Meeting (January 31, 2021), and the congregation will ratify the changes at the 2022 Annual

Meeting to be held January 30, 2022. The changes are listed below with highlighting showing the changes (added or deleted—see strikethrough). These changes were explained and discussed at the October Governing Board meeting in order to provide this information to the Governing Board at least 60 days before the annual meeting, and these notes (printed here and in the October meeting notes) provide evidence of the discussion.

C11.02. The voting membership of the Governing Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor, the elected officers of the congregation as described in C11.01, and four other board members at large, **at least one of whom may be a youth and at least one of whom may be a young adult.**

C11.03. All Governing Board members including the officers, shall be voting members of the congregation ~~eighteen years of age or older,~~ and shall be elected by a majority vote of the congregation, or by written ballot if more than one candidate is nominated for a position.

Once the congregation ratifies the changes, the bishop will sign the updated constitution and it becomes legal. Note that the vote for ratification must take place before a youth member is voted on or we'll be out of order.

Suggestions for newsletter article:

- Amazing children's Christmas program, Lift up the kids' program, annual meeting, book study.

We closed with prayer. Pastor Brice prayed us out: "We can't be a resurrection people without being a Christmas people."

Next meeting: January 18 @ 6:30 pm

Submitted by: Gayle Nelson