

**Church Council Meeting Minutes
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
September 19th, 2019**

Council Members

Garry Haase (Present)	President	Pastor Ray Angerman (Present)	
Ann Lienemann (Present)	Vice President	Curtis Wiese (Present)	Family Life Minister
Jean Grieve (Absent)	Human Care Chairman	Darrell Bittle (Present)	Properties Chairman
Vacant	Stewardship Chairman	Nathan Lepper (Present)	Elder Chairman
Vacant	Education Chairman	Sherry Weise (Present)	Youth Chairman
Vacant	Outreach Chairman	Marion Russell (Present)	Treasurer
Diana Fallon (Present)	Fellowship Chairman	Connie Haney (Present)	Recording Secretary

1. Proceedings

A. Call to Order. President Garry Haase called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

B. Opening Devotion from Acts 4:19. Pastor Ray discussed Satan’s challenges that are before you: life doesn’t turn out like you plan when you were young, you are no longer sure what life’s outcome will be, you tried to hold on to what was good, but it hasn’t worked out as you imagined. If this applies to your life, then it’s time for the Holy Spirit to renew you. Redemption from the Lord translates into salvation for those who are given Jesus as their Savior. The Good News is from the Lord—get out and share it.

C. Approval of Minutes (August). VP Ann Lienemann noted one correction under old business, paragraph 5, Organ Fund, change “Louis” to “Lois”. VP Lienemann made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Mr Nate Lepper seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The minutes (draft #2) are approved as corrected.

2. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer. Ms Marion Russell presented the Treasurer's report. The Church is \$1,158 in the black this month. The cost savings is attributed to a refund of \$6,000 to \$7,000 from the previous leased copier, per FLM Curtis.

B. Business Manager. President Haase read the Business Manager's report. Ms Kathy Shaw will be sending the final contract payment of \$19,900 for the organ. She had a suggestion regarding how to consolidate some of the dedicated accounts. Refer to the written report for more information.

3. Present Member. No members of the congregation were present at this meeting.

4. Board Reports.

A. Elders. The Board was not able to meet this month. Mr Nate Lepper highlighted the small group discipling workshop held last weekend--it is off to a good start. The D48 initiative officially kicks-off in January 2020.

B. Christian Education. FLM Curtis shared experiences from Rally Day. The church had a baptism, which was the first in a long time. He related a story about a stranger who pulled-over, got out of his vehicle, and ran-up the slide while his wife filmed the escapade. Rally Day was successful, and FLM Curtis thanked the Fellowship Board and others for their support. FLM Curtis prepared an education budget for next year and handed-out the summary on a separate sheet.

C. Fellowship. Ms Diana Fallon reported the Fellowship Board members helped with Rally Day and provided food for the small group workshop. Compliments to the Board for the food!

D. Human Care. Ms Jean Grieve wasn't available for the Council meeting due to a Relay for Life meeting. Ms Grieve submitted a budget for the Human Care Board; however, there is no written Board report this month.

E. Properties. Mr Darrel Bittle reported the Board has many projects identified for the Fellowship Hall that are needed to correct issues. The projects are expensive and are not currently in the budget. The Board consensus was to move the church office and staff to the education building rather than piecemeal solutions for the Fellowship Hall. Multiple people are experiencing health (respiratory) problems due to mold. The Board deferred to Pastor Ray and the church staff to determine what they need in order to relocate. The timeline for the move is "as soon as possible". In the past, the church office had been temporarily relocated to the education building when the Fellowship Hall roof was damaged by a tornado. VP Lienemann

requested information where each staff member would be relocated in the education building. Pastor Ray and FLM Curtis offered to walk-through the preliminary plans after the council meeting.

The Properties Board budget is drafted and submitted. The Board had acoustic modeling performed by the company who recommended the wall panels for the nursery. The company calculated 126-189 square feet of wall treatment would be required, but acoustic ceiling panels may offer a less expensive solution. More research is being conducted before determining a final solution. Glass for the window was delivered to the church today. Refer to the written Board report for more information.

F. Stewardship. FLM Curtis will forward notes. He recommended moving donation envelopes back under the stewardship board.

G. Outreach. FLM Curtis will forward notes. Outreach activity for this coming year is limited.

H. Youth. FLM Curtis reported the American Heritage Girls Troop is taking a recess. The funds in their bank account will be transferred to youth ministry for the immediate future.

5. Old Business

Organ Fund. The outstanding balance for the organ is approximately \$13,000. President Haase conducted an email vote with the Council to approve paying-off the balance of the organ now, but the consensus was to defer installing the organ until after the yard sale. The target date for installation is the end of October/beginning of November. There was discussion about moving the October council meeting from the 17th to 24th in order to finalize plans for the organ installation and dedication. Alternatively, we can hold the council meeting as scheduled, with a follow-on email vote to decide about the organ installation after the results of the yard sale are known. The council agreed to move the meeting to October 24th.

6. New Business

A. Undedicated accounts consolidation/clean-up. The business manager made a recommendation to move several accounts into the organ fund. FLM Curtis advocated using money from the dedicated accounts (vice the Lutheran Church Extension Fund) because the dedicated accounts are not earning interest. The extension fund balance was \$15,506 before recent donations to the organ fund. After much discussion, there remained too many unknowns about each line item for the Council to make decisions about dissolving some of the undedicated accounts, so the topic was tabled until next month.

B. Office Move. Pastor Ray requested to use money from the Thrivent account for moving the office because it's an unbudgeted expense. Mr Bittle suggested there are alternate sources for funding, too.

C. Budget Build.

a. Education budget. FLM Curtis explained his budget proposals. VBS is not as effective as it was in the past. The Rally Day budget is increased. The Pastor's and Ladies' bible study materials are paid from the Sunday school line, in addition to the children's message materials. Ms Connie Haney inquired whether the computer in the Fellowship Hall falls under the Sunday school budget. Pastor Ray explained the computers belonged to the staff members. Ms Lisa Brown (former membership secretary) purchased two laptops instead of replacing CPUs. The church cannot afford to purchase new computers due to rapid obsolescence. FLM Curtis recommended bringing your own computer to use for special events. He does invest in adapters to try to make the computers compatible with church's existing systems.

The server is 10 year old and it will need to be replaced in the future. Ms Haney recommended programming this expense into the budget.

b. Youth budget. The youth budget remains the same. The American Heritage Girls line was dropped. The Youth trips are well-funded through other means.

c. Outreach budget. The Outreach budget remains the same. FLM Curtis recommended moving the public relations/media money under the Administrative Council to the Outreach Board. Portals of Prayer are funded through Outreach. There is management reserve in Outreach in case Pastor Ray wants to bring-in an outreach speaker. Advertising for special church events is paid for out of this budget. FLM Curtis plans to support the December parade. President Haase queried the Council whether there were any concerns with moving public relations money from Administrative Council to Outreach. There were no objections from Council members to moving this money between accounts.

d. Stewardship. FLM Curtis added money for special programs in case he needs to buy materials for stewardship. He recommended consolidating several line items and moving donation envelopes back under the Stewardship Board from the Administrative Council. Refer to FLM Curtis' written report for additional detail.

e. Fellowship. The budget remains the same as last year because many supplies are donated by individual Board members. The Board supports the 5th Sunday breakfast, Rally Day and Reformation celebration. FLM Curtis' budget summaries concluded with the Fellowship Board.

f. Elders. Mr Nathan Lepper spoke about the Elders budget and described it as static. He asked the Council whether last year's budget (\$7,100) is adequate for 2020. The Board is currently over budget at \$7,500. VP Lienemann summarized the expenditures and asked whether the same activity is anticipated for next year. FLM Curtis mentioned there will be some reimbursement from the District for Pastor Ray's and FLM Curtis' airline tickets to attend the Synod convention. Both individuals do not normally attend at the same time. This event only occurs every

three years; however, FLM Curtis will be attending the professional church workers convention in October. This is an annual event. The Council discussed and acknowledged there may be a shortfall in the Elders budget. Mr Lepper asked whether \$7,500 or \$7,100 is a reasonable starting point for next year's budget. The guest speakers and altar flowers are currently over budget. President Haase summarized the discussion and the decision was made to remain at \$7,100 for the budget request. He recommended forecasting a trip to attend one convention next year.

g. Human Care. The Council reviewed Ms Grieve's budget submission. Ms Russell noted the \$400 line item for training, and several people raised the question, "Can the dedicated accounts line of \$1,937 be used to cover training expense?" FLM Curtis mentioned someone wrote a check for \$1,937 for AED support and the money was placed in a dedicated account line item. He believes the purpose was to fund AED replacement batteries (~\$800 each).

h. Properties. Mr Bittle explained there will be a 7% increase to the electric bill per year for the next 5 years due to Hurricane Michael. Compared to last year's budget, there is an increase to the budget for building maintenance and Florida pest control. Mr Bittle offered to meet with President Haase prior to the October meeting to review details of his budget proposal.

i. Administrative Council. President Haase quickly reviewed the expenses: the copier is leased (and there is an on-going expense for the maintenance agreement), property insurance increased, workman's comp increased, and computer support increased. President Haase requested clarification about what is covered under computer support. FLM Curtis explained it's for on-site visits to fix computers. VP Lienemann noted 76% of the budget was spent on this line item. FLM Curtis explained he replaced several hard drives when they fail. President Haase will follow-up with Ms Shaw to find out what's included in the computer support line. The server is old and we may need to program funds to replace it.

j. Missions. Ms Russell explained she wanted to see more resources used toward local organizations. Pastor Ray explained the church avoids supporting agencies that receive federal funding. There is a difference between benevolence and missions (e.g., using money to further the Gospel). Missions are Christian and Gospel-focused versus charity. The question was raised, "Why is the district getting so much money and why is it considered missions money?" President Haase requested FLM Curtis obtain a copy of the district budget as a reference for Council members.

D. Financial Secretary. One of the tellers, Ms Flo Hofman, volunteered to serve as the financial secretary. Pastor Ray made a motion to appoint Ms Hofman as the Financial Secretary and VP Lienemann seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

E. DCE's report. FLM Curtis reviewed the results of the study he performed on our

church pledges and contributions. From a discipleship viewpoint, our congregation is not doing too well—approximately half of the congregation is giving less than \$100 per month. How do we convey the stewardship message that everything belongs to God? Typically the church receives twice the dollar amount in contributions as the amount of money pledged. Ms Russell asked whether we track the amount given for special love offerings. FLM Curtis acknowledged people want to support “a cause” versus “the mission of the church”. There was a long discussion about stewardship.

F. Pastor’s report. The Life Team showed the movie “Unplanned” at the FWB civic center. Many pro-life organizations showed-up to support the event though attendance was approximately 50 people per showing. Pastor Ray participated in two radio shows on WPSM and WFTW 1260, Dan Diamond’s show. Pastor Ray had the opportunity to plug our church, and a pro-life message while advertising for the movie Unplanned. The small group workshop was well-done, many thanks to Deacon Joe Staton. Pastor Steve Stewart will preach on Thanksgiving Eve. Pastor Ray’s Sunday school class teaches the DNA of the LCMS and is focused on how to become missional. Please pray for all our ill members, and FLM Curtis and Pastor Ray who are supporting the sick. Fourteen members have passed in the past five years. Pastor Ray offered a walk-through of the proposed modifications to the education building immediately following the council meeting.

G. Next Council Meeting: October 24th, 2019, at 6pm.

H. The meeting closed with the song, “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”. The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Minutes submitted by

Connie L. Haney
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Treasurer’s Report
3. Council Meeting Minutes (August Draft)
4. Board of Elder’s Report (not available)
5. Board of Education Report
6. Board of Youth Report
7. Board of Fellowship Report
8. Board of Human Care Report (not available)
9. Board of Stewardship Report
10. Board of Properties Report
11. Pastor’s Report

12. FLM's Report
13. Membership Report
14. A Look at the Treasury Report
15. Business Manager's Report

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