

Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
November 2, 2020

**DRAFT**

Board Members Present: Bob Scott, Mike Platz, Larry Larsen, Edd Johnson, Pastor Ffej Stephenson, Vanessa Gonzalez, John Ashton, Doug Johnson and Linda Casteel

Pastor Ffej Stephenson led us in a devotional and prayer.

Meeting was opened by President Bob Scott at 1:00pm and a quorum was determined.

Doug Tapking moved and Kim Russell 2<sup>nd</sup> that the previous Voters Meeting Minutes be approved as written. Passed unanimously.

Under unfinished business, Yvonne Krause presented a written copy of changes to the Bylaws for all who attended. These revisions included corrections of typos, previous editing errors and changing of English spelled words to the American spelling. These changes were approved unanimously by the members present.

Doug Tapking reported on the current progress of the Call Committee in looking for a new senior pastor. He stated the results of the recent survey of the congregation indicated the following characteristics to be of primary importance: Strong Biblical background, positive attitude, willingness to openly communicate with the congregation, work to enhance unity within the church, maintain doctrinal teachings, provide leadership which is hope-filled, faithful and forward-looking. Doug indicated that additional information will be sent out after December in looking for an additional pastor.

Rick Hanzlik (Facilities Trustee) and Teri Nestel (Financial Trustee) were introduced as the nominees for these positions for the Board of Trustees. Voting by ballot for both candidates resulted in their acceptance to the Board.

The Financial Review Committee had been unable to convene prior to the Voter's Meeting, thus no report was available at this time.

Under new business, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been asked by the Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ to call and deploy Jim (and Barb) Nelson to the Christian Motorcycle Association as National Evangelists for the Western Region. Jim will be maintained on our roster as a minister from this congregation, however, CMA will be funding his ministry as a missionary. Barb will be leaving as the Music Director as of January. They will be traveling 300/365 days per year, but will maintain their membership in GSLC. This is a normal procedure for the LCMC organization. Edd Johnson moved and Doug Tapking 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the deployment of Jim Nelson in this capacity. Voters approved unanimously.

Pastor Ffej reported that Sunday attendance has been slowly increasing since January 2020 (Covid) every single year and that we have almost reached the level of attendance seen in 2018-2019. He asked for more volunteers to participate in the Food Drives here at GSLC.

Mike Platz talked about the budget provided at the Voter's Meeting. He indicated when the budget was initially presented, it may have been a bit daunting, but that GSLC had responded to the challenges presented very favorably. When presented, the budget included a proposed possible deficit of \$200,000. The budget was passed anyway and the deficit for 2025 never manifested due to the fact that the congregation stepped up and met the needs! The increase has maintained and appears to be continuing. Restricted transfers were explained as transfers to a fund which would be used to help in travel expenses/moving expenses for potential candidates for ministerial positions (Youth & Family Minister Search current balance is \$7,500). There is a \$12,000/month budget item to help in repair and building maintenance. A 3% increase for staff and benefits was included. Voters were informed that every time the QR code is used to donate to the church, the bank charges GSLC a fee. However, if an automatic check is given, no fee is charged.

John Ashton reported an updated system for the Bell Tower, the AC unit in the Quad, and 2 new stoves in the kitchen and a handrail to the altar area have been installed. Things needed in the near future are repair of the movable wall, a broken pipe in the basement which is leaking and a toilet valve will need to be replaced. There is a plugged drain outside creating damage in the hallway downstairs which needs to be addressed. Mile House 741 also needs to have irrigation updated. The annual inspection of the boiler has been done. The pressure release valve and couplings in the Riser Room need to be replaced. Money given to special funds—i.e., Rainy Day Fund and Surplus Fund will be used to help meet these needs. Spirit of Titus funds rules for distribution indicate they may be used for missions as well as church repairs. \$60,000 of which given to Missions. If appreciated stock is given to the church, it does not have to pay taxes on this income. Door openers need to be installed for restroom doors, as they currently cannot be opened by those with walkers.

John Ashton and Mike Platz were applauded for their service on the Board of Trustees.

Pastor James Wakefield was acknowledged and thanked for his willingness to assist Pastor Ffej during our time of transition.

Mick McCaslin moved and Pam Scott 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Casteel  
Secretary for the Board of Trustees