

*We are a community of all ages gathered by God's grace
for worship, learning, loving and service to all.*

**MINUTES - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Sunday, March 15, 2020**

Present: Anna-Marie Plyler, Donna Foster, Ed Beaman, Jamie Sanders, Jennifer Ross, Katie Bostic, Mitch Uehling, Stacy Gross, and Steve Steck.

Absent: Karen Lucas, Marcia Woodward, Noah Adams and Pastor Isenhower.

Call to Order and Devotion: President Ed Beaman called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Donna Foster gave the devotion and offered prayer.

Adoption of Agenda:

Ed Beaman added "Corona Virus" to the agenda under Item "9. New Business" and requested that it be discussed first. There were no objections. He asked if there were any more changes to the agenda and having none, he declared the **Agenda Adopted**.

Adoption of Minutes:

Mr. Beaman gave Council time to read the draft February Council Minutes and the February Annual Meeting Minutes since the Council package was hard copy and was handed out at the meeting.

President Beaman asked if there were any changes to the February 16, 2020 Council Minutes. Having none, he called for a vote and the February 2020 Council Minutes were **Unanimously Approved**.

President Beaman then asked if there were any changes to the February 23, 2020 Good Shepherd Annual Meeting Minutes. Having none, he called for a vote. The February 2020 Good Shepherd Annual Meeting Minutes were **Unanimously Approved**.

Attendance and Membership for February 2020

SUNDAYS

<u>2020</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>10:45</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>2019</u>	<u>8:15</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
2/2/2020	N/A	45	133	133		2/3/2019	49	34	102	151
2/9/2020	50	47	90	140		2/10/2019	38	58	102	140
2/16/2020	61	53	96	157		2/17/2019	40	60	103	143
2/23/2020	47	50	103	150		2/24/2019	56	64	107	163
				0						
Average	53	49	106	145		Average	46	54	104	149

NOTE: The average February attendance of 145 is 36% of February's current active membership of 405.

ASH WEDNESDAY

<u>2020</u>	<u>Noon</u>	<u>10:45</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>2019</u>	<u>Noon</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
2/26/2020	41	65	106		3/6/2019	36	65	101

Total Membership 12/31/2019: 708
Total Active Members 12/31/2019: 402

Current active membership at the end of January 2020: 410

Members Added in February 2020: 0

Members Removed in February 2020: 5

Mary Robertson (death)

Danielle Kitner (Removed by request)

Ryan Fink (Removed by request)

Lauren Fink (Removed by request)

Jean Sundlie (death)

Current active membership at end of February 2020: 405

Reports

1. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer submitted the January Profit and Loss Statement. Select committee financials were distributed directly to the Committee Chairs.
2. Pastor Andrew's Report: Written Report Submitted.

Standing Committees:

1. Communication Committee – Karen Lucas, Council Liaison with Wade Wingard, Contact: No Written Report Submitted
2. Evangelism Committee –Written Report Submitted.
3. Finance Committee – Jamie Sanders, Council Liaison with Rebecca Richardson, Chair: No Written Report Submitted.
4. Gifts Committee – Marcia Woodward: No Written Report Submitted.
5. Learning Committee – Katie Bostic: No Written Report Submitted.
6. Parish Life Committee – Karen Lucas: Written Report Submitted.
7. Property Committee – Ed Beaman, Council Liaison with Lauren Chandler, Chair: Written Report Submitted.
8. Social Ministry Committee – Steve Steck, Council Liaison with Don Caughman, Chair: Written Report Submitted.
9. Worship Life Committee – Donna Foster: No Written Report Submitted.
10. Youth & Children Committee – Mitch Uehling: Two Written Reports Submitted.

Old Business:

1. Safety and Security Task Force Plan
The Revised Safety and Security Task Force Plan was handed out. Council was asked to review the changes and be ready to discuss at the next Council meeting.

New Business:

1. Corona Virus:
President Beaman informed Council that he had received a number of phone calls and emails from members expressing their concerns over the Corona Virus as it relates to our activities at church. Ed said that he had discussed those concerns over the phone with Pastor Andrew. He said that we were going to discuss each one of those concerns along with Pastor Andrew's take/opinion. The concerns expressed to Ed were as follows:
 - a. Suspend any mention of "Sharing of the Peace" in the bulletins:
Mr. Beaman said that even though Pastor Andrew had requested in his pre-service announcements that members not shake hands or hug during the sharing of the peace, members were continuing to do so. By removing that particular part of the service from the service all together would remedy the situation. Pastor Andres agreed and the Council was in full agreement.

- b. Communion:
Temporarily suspend the use of the Common Cup during Communion.
Discussion was held regarding the thought that silver was an antimicrobial and that the alcohol in the wine would kill the virus. Council thought that the alcohol content of the wine was not sufficient to kill the virus and that using the common cup came into direct contact with human saliva.
- i. Council decided that it was safer to use the individual plastic cups placed in the metal trays for distribution of the wine.
 - ii. Council also decided to go back to using the wafers in place of the bread which had to be touched multiple times before the pastor gave it for communion.
- c. Offering:
Placing Offering Plates should be placed on tables at each door of the Sanctuary would prevent the plates being touched by all attendees. It was mentioned that the Ushers would need to keep watch over the plates in the Narthex during the service and that they should use disinfectant wipes before handling the plates. Council agreed on this matter.
- d. Ending Lenten Dinners:
There was discussion on this matter in that Council did not want to discourage anyone from attending the evening Lenten service. Council agreed that it would be prudent to suspend the meal.
- e. Not to offer Communion at Wednesday Lenten Services:
Since Communion will continue (albeit in a different manner) during this time of abundant caution, Council agreed that discontinuing Communion during the Wednesday Lenten Services. Some of the Council members stated that this was no different than in years recent Wednesday Lenten Services where no Communion was given.
- f. Cancel Services Outright:
This decision was delayed until further health, government and synod decisions are made. However, the possibility of having podcasts to transmit services was discussed. Jennifer Ross notified Council that she received an email that *"One License"* was offering one free month of licensure. *One License* is a software that allows for legal dissemination of copyright material through electronic means via special licensure.
- g. Sunday School Class Cancellation
During this long and detailed discussion, Council made the decision that the safety and wellbeing of our members was paramount at times like this when a pandemic was just beginning to surface in South Carolina. Council has seen daily growth of infection and death by the Corona virus in other countries and realize that the effects are just being felt in the United States. To that end, Council recommended the following: All activities with the exception Worship Services and office operations will be suspended for the entire campus of Good Shepherd Luther Church until March 30. Realizing that the virus situation changes daily, Council will monitor advice and guidelines from the professionals and conduct call meetings as necessary to determine if lifting the closure of the campus will be lifted or extended.
2. Synod Assembly Representatives
Synod Assembly will be held in Columbia, SC on May 14-16. Council nominated 5 persons to attend. Jennifer Ross, who was at Council Meeting agreed to attend. Mr. Beaman will get in touch with the other members to obtain their willingness to attend.
3. Property Committee Motion
The Property Committee moves that the Congregational Council approve the following motion to be brought before the Congregation for approval to spend approximately \$50,000 for replacement of the Education Building HVAC system this spring, 2020. The estimate is for 4 HVAC units, installation and required electrical work. Each of the four units will be dedicated to a zone, replacing the current system.

"Property Committee moves to replace the failing monolithic HVAC system in the Education Building that has become unreliable and now lacks the availability of repair parts. Spring of 2020 is the ideal time to replace system, as removal, electrical and installation will take close to a week to complete, leaving the building without heat or air conditioning. The weather should be moderate at that time, allowing use of the building without HVAC Support."

Background Information:

The following paraphrases the information concerning the Education Building HVAC system that was provided in the November 13, 2019 Property Committee Report to Congregation Council:

- a. The gas fired heater had gas leaks due to both a corroded manifold and burner element line. This ambient gas was sometimes igniting and at other times remained as fumes. A very dangerous problem was caught in time by our HVAC contractor, who immediately cut off the gas supply.
- b. The heat unit was last repaired in 2006 by replacing the corroded elements with stainless steel elements. The parts needing replacement are no longer available.
- c. The HVAC service provider was able to have the unavailable parts fabricated for approximately \$1,800. Parts of the building were heated with three portable HVAC units during the time that the system was shut down.
- d. The entire 20 year system needs to be replaced, as our HVAC service provider had to also scrounge around last summer to get two parts for the air conditioner. Another problem with the current system is that the intake air comes from the outside, as there are no interior returns for re-circulating the processed air. Hot air comes in to the air conditioner in the summer and cold air comes into the heater in the winter. The committee voted to begin the process of replacing the HVAC system.

Since the defective heater manifold was replaced with a custom fabricated unit, we are getting by this winter. Now is the time to get approval to proceed in scheduling this overdue replacement. Estimates are still being sought, but to date only one vendor has submitted a bid. Two others have declined to bid due the scale of the job and the difficulties in not just swapping out a HVAC unit.

After discussion, motion was **Unanimously Approved**.

4. Gifts Committee Motion

The Gifts Committee moves to seek approval from Council to conduct an appeal to Good Shepherd Lutheran Congregation to replenish the Capital Fund Account. If approved, this appeal would begin after Easter 2020. After discussion, motion was **Unanimously Approved**.

5. Walter Robertson Fellowship Room (Request from Lula Camp)

Lula Camp sent an email to Katie Bostic, Chair of Learning Committee requesting that a plaque be purchased for the room where the Fellowship Class currently meets. She requested that the plaque designate the room as the "Walter Robertson Fellowship Room". During the discussion, President Beaman informed Council that there was a long standing policy that no plaques of recognition be placed at Good Shepherd. It was discussed that renaming the Sunday School Class itself could be an option. Katie Bostic informed Council that after the agenda was produced that Lula Camp had spoken with a fellow church member and subsequently sent Katie another email withdrawing her request.

Petitions and Communications:

1. Stacy Gross requested a switch in her Council Person of the Month Assignment.

Mitch Uehling offered to take June for Stacy and Stacy will now be Council Person of the Month for May.

The Pulse:

1. Council was reminded of their responsibilities as Committee Chairs and were asked to remind Committee Chairs of the same in that phone calls, reminder calls and mailouts, etc. were to be conducted by the committee and not the Parish Administrator. Council was made aware of the large volume of phone calls regarding Food Pantry requests. They were made aware there is not always a volunteer in the office and when there is a volunteer they are not there for the entire work day.

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M. with Council Members joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Anna-Marie Plyler