

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
12650 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE ROAD, APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124
Minutes of Congregational Meeting
Date: 5/7/2023
On-Site Sanctuary

Call to Order: President Melissa Taphorn called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. Pastor Rick Summy shared an opening prayer.

RIC Process and Voting: Pastor Rick Summy asked for present Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Task Force members to stand and be recognized for their work so far.

Pastor Rick Summy gave an overview of the RIC process. Pastor Rick also explained the partnership with Reconciling Works moving forward. No shift in affiliation with ECLA, St. Paul Area Synod nor change in decision making at SOTV as a result of the partnership. We have budgeted a donation of \$500 to Reconciling Works in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

First survey of congregation: 77% in support; 15% wanted to learn more; 11% did not support. Pastors hosted learning and conversation sessions. This is a step in the journey. Equity Leadership will make any future recommendations should the motion pass. Second survey of congregation: 86% in support at that time.

Time was available for open Q&A for congregation members to ask questions and for Pastors and RIC Task Force members to answer.

Melissa Taphorn read the motion: Centered in the love of God in Jesus, SOTV is committed to welcoming, including, and affirming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Rachel Wermerskirchen moved to approve the motion as stated. Robin Robinson seconded the motion. Congregation was given the opportunity to complete a ballot. The congregation voted 146 (yes)-15 (no)-1 (abstained). Motion passed with 90% (ninety).

Adjourn: Pastor Rick Summy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 PM. Kris Ehresmann seconded the motion. The congregation voted unanimously to approve the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Crouse, Church Council Secretary

Minutes approved by Council May 18, 2023
Ratified by the Congregation June 4, 2023