

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
12650 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE ROAD, APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124
Minutes of Congregational Meeting
September 24, 2023 at 12:00 pm
On-Site, Sanctuary

CALL TO ORDER

President Melissa Taphorn called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM noting satisfaction of meeting quorum. Melissa reviewed the agenda and introduced treasurer, Dick Rank to be presenting the FY 2023-2024 budget for congregational approval. Melissa offered a word of appreciation to the dedicated staff and volunteers of Shepherd of the Valley.

Pastor Rick Summy offered a prayer to start the meeting.

MINUTES

After review of the Council-approved meeting minutes of the June 4, 2023 Congregational Meeting, Cindy Bailey made a motion to approve and ratify the minutes by the congregation. The motion was seconded by Michael Kelly. The minutes were unanimously approved and ratified by the congregation. Zero no votes and zero abstains.

BUDGET APPROVAL

Dick Rank, Treasurer and Finance Leadership Team Chair, reviewed the fiscal year close 2022-2023 and presented the Council-approved fiscal year 2023-2024 budget. Shepherd of the Valley fiscal year runs August 1 – July 31 annually.

Fiscal year 2022-2023 closed the year with \$3.2 million in income/gifts and \$2.9 million in expenses. It was noted that \$440,000 of income was received by the Federal government in ERC (Employee Retention Credit) funds. An additional \$150,000 was received from the Planting Hope stewardship campaign member gifts. Had Shepherd of the Valley not received these gifts, we would have ended the year with -\$270,000 from the General Fund. Fortunately, with the generous donations and these exceptional gifts, the year ended \$320,000 to the good.

Fiscal year 2023-2024 Council-approved budget was presented and reviewed to expect a balanced budget with \$2.8 million in income / gifts and \$2.8 million in expenses. It was noted that giving continues to be down from pre-pandemic statistics and Shepherd of the Valley is not alone in this experience as compared to other congregations and non-profits. August 2023 was a positive month and we are hopeful to see signs moving in a positive direction but it is too early to tell. This is a conservative budget with a continued need for consistent gifts.

Important items to note in the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget include:

- \$90,000 in Planting Hope pledges to be received by December 31, 2023.
- Open positions were not filled and current staff have taken on additional responsibilities to maintain programs and events.
- Staff did not receive Cost of Living Adjustments to wages on August 1 as per usual. Staff increases are not budgeted for the new fiscal year.
- Additional principal payments on the mortgage were not budgeted for the new fiscal year.
- The Finance Leadership Team will review staff increases and additional principal payments toward debt reduction quarterly with recommendations to Council.

Discussion:

Jeff Kile raised questions about the mortgage which were reviewed.

Kris Moyer raised a question about designated gifts above and beyond regular giving which was addressed.

No other questions or discussion.

Melissa Taphorn called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget as presented. Kris Moyer moved to approve the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget. Rachel Wermerskirchen seconded the motion. The congregation voted unanimously to approve the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget. Zero no votes and zero abstains.

CALL UPDATE

Melissa Taphorn offered gratitude to Pastor Rick for generous notice of his retirement scheduled for January 14, 2024. His notice allows us proper time for planning and attention to details. Melissa shared with the congregation planning work which has already begun along with the partnership we have with the St. Paul Area Synod. Bishop Patricia Lull will meet with Council leaders in October. Interim plans are in process. The congregation can expect to see more information on the call process and a request for member applications for a Call Committee in November 2023.

ADJOURN

Melissa Taphorn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 PM. Pat Buss seconded the motion. The congregation voted unanimously to approve the motion to adjourn. Zero no votes and zero abstains.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Davidson
Director of Operations

Approved by Council October 19, 2023
Ratified by the congregation _____