

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
December 3, 2017

Meeting was called to order by John Seal, President of Church Council at 10:05 am.
Opening prayer by Pastor Tina.

1. Motion to accept congregational minutes with changes from May 7, 2017, by Bob Fawcett; seconded by Steve Lewandowski..
2. We are in need of volunteers to be a part of a nominating team to fill council positions. Please consider this request. There are a number of positions to be filled. The Synod Assembly this year is May 11-12, in New Brunswick, NJ. Ronn Sacchiero has volunteered to attend and Celeste Bethmann will get back to Pastor Tina.
3. The Spending Plan for 2018 has been sent out to all members. There are also copies available here. Kevin Pollison posed a question asking for the total balance of restricted funds. Total appears to be \$ 80,000.00 including food certificates. Revenue is decreasing and in order to offset that decrease, the plan is to use the building as much as possible as a community outreach. Building usage has increased along with those donations. The office is still staffed with volunteers and there are no plans to replace our secretary in 2018. Motion to accept the Spending Plan as stated by Emery Malastis; seconded by Wendy Whipple.
4. Meredyth Applebaum asked about the number of services and Chris Weiss commented on the number of attendees at the service increasing when there are less times to worship.. Pastor Tina suggested the services remain in place to give everyone a chance to attend. Alice Williamson commented on the different styles of service and members desire to keep all styles. Pastor Tina has also been thinking about another congregation using our building to increase community awareness and revenue.
5. Wendy Whipple offered to approach the groups that use our building to invite them to worship with us. This could increase our revenue and membership. Marti Nielson commented about the problems of always addressing the same group of people. We do need all the members to take an active role in keeping this church alive and well. Pastor has recently designated the coffee hour to fall between services to bridge the two peoples.
6. Pastor Tina believes, financially, there are just four options left:
 - a. We can close the mission.
 - b. We can sell the property and rent space for worship from another church.
 - c. Reach out to Holy Counselor or St. Mary's and merge or share ministry.
 - d. Create separate Foundation to continue to grow our mission by welcoming our neighbors and providing the community with a dry, warm and safe place. Pastor Tina is looking into Grant writing. This could help in obtaining funds from outside sources to support our mission. The nature of the country is changed with respect to church attendance and financial support, therefore we must also change.
7. A Capital Campaign has begun. It has been designated - The Fund. The hope is to accumulate some unrestricted funds. Pastor expressed the desire to have each family contribute 500.00. This could definitely resuscitate the unrestricted funds.
8. Shepherd of the Hills has celebrated 52 years. We are blessed to share this beautiful building with our community. We also have been fortunate to be the home for Connect for Community. Our Fish Fry is being planned and events like this expose us as a community of faith. With the help of God, we go forward and yes, we can do this!
9. Motion to adjourn by Barbara Osborne; seconded by Allison Pollison. The meeting ended 10:57 am with a circle of members reciting The Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted by Celeste Bethmann, Recording Secretary December 31, 2017