

Christ Our Shepherd Council Minutes October 24, 2022

In attendance: Patrick Bauer, Pastor Beecher, Scott Bosecker, Mark Bunker, Sue Byers, Steve Gundersen, Carol Jensen-Linton, Shelly Jones, Lisa Manthey, Pastor Wiese.

Scott presided over the meeting due to President Rick Burnett being on vacation.

After Halloween cookies were shared, the meeting was called to order.

Shelly gave a devotion that compared the attributes of plants to biblical references.

Due to Kevin Hawkins being unable to attend this meeting due to business travel, Pastor Wiese suggested Carol read Kevin's email report on the Stewardship Campaign. Highlights of that reading included:

Of the 322 active households at COS, we have no record of giving from 99 of them (31%).

Weekly Average Giving: For the 223 households that we do have recorded giving data, the Median value is about \$50 per week (half give more than \$50 per week and half give less per week). Five households give \$400+ per week.

Stewardship is aware of Donor Fatigue and policies are in place to help avoid that. Requesting members to give more is part of every Stewardship Campaign. This year the effort has focused on 5 specific ministries that would benefit from increased monetary resources. Stewardship has utilized training programs to learn about this fundraising technique and other best practices.

In preparation for an anticipated Capital Campaign to support the Sanctuary Renewal Project, a brief history of COS's most recent Capital Campaigns was presented. These were in 2005 (Called To Action) & 2015 (40 for 40).

With Kevin's report completed, Scott reported that someone was needed to present a Devotion and to be the Scribe for November & December. Scott indicated he could do both of those tasks in November. Carol indicated she could be the Scribe in December. Scott indicated we would revisit the December Devotional request at the November meeting.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Wiese passed around some acorns to illustrate that small things can potentially grow.

1. The Minister of Music search was reviewed; procedures for moving forward are being implemented.
2. Stewardship Campaign kicks off on October 30th. This campaign was outlined.
3. Interim period of early 2023 to transition from the David Beecher era to the future.
4. Sanctuary Renewal Project – A review of the latest version of Alberto Portela's Sanctuary plan will take place on the evening of October 27th.
5. Return of people to worship... not yet back to pre-Covid levels but new members are joining. Leadership was encouraged to attend regularly as examples to others.

Demographics of churches were reviewed and the need for emphasis on youth and young person outreach. A review of "How are large churches doing?" and questions that Pastors of larger churches are being asked to facilitate discussion.

Pastor Beecher indicated that a new leader of the Minister of Music Search is very close to being identified. The organist of the Presbyterian church in Peachtree City has indicated he would be willing to consult in helping evaluating individuals during the interview process.

Meetings are numerous due to the number of projects and searches we have going on at this time. New families with children are being seen and that's a great sign. The Blessing of the Animals was a success. The various ways that COS serves the community were highlighted – particularly Palmetto Road's impact. Upcoming events were highlighted and "entry points" for missing membership was discussed with special emphasis on the Youth Career Night participation.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Bunker presented a review of recent giving. September giving was below budget but we are still ahead year to date. Mark discussed the "noise" in giving. October giving seemed to be "good" as of the middle of the month. A \$50,000 restricted gift was recently received. This restricted donation was presented to assist in Sanctuary improvements; another approximately \$3300 restricted gift was also received.

For the year to date, our income/expense is well ahead of budget. An explanation of some of the various higher cost expenses was given.

Personnel Committee Updates

Youth & Family Ministry update – Interim Shelly Jakubowski is aware that a permanent director will probably not be in place by the end of the year. She is willing to continue in her position for a while past the end of the year.

Minister of Music was covered earlier in the meeting.

Contemporary Music Assistant Director replacement is still in work with no obvious replacement in sight. Some "thinking outside the box solutions" are being explored by the Pastors.

Administrative Items

Motion to approve the September Minutes was made by Carol and seconded by Patrick. The September minutes were approved by voice vote.

An update on the Nomination Committee was presented by Scott. The committee will meet on the evening of November 1st. Pastor Wiese also gave a review of the philosophy of picking a person that will be willing to be Council President at some point.

A reminder was given that the December Council meeting will be December 19th, a week earlier than normal, due to the Christmas holiday. The Annual Congregational meeting will be on January 22nd.

Carol gave a reminder that the Aging Matters topic for October 30th would be revolve around the options available when a person is unable to safely live at their own home any longer.

Carol gave a glowing testimonial on Barbara Anderson's & Ingrid Hudson's work.

A motion to adjourn was presented by Pastor Wiese and seconded by Carol. The motion was approved by voice vote followed by the council joining in the Lord's Prayer.