

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church  
Estes Park, Colorado  
Council Minutes  
8 February 2024

**Members present**

Carolyn Jarmin – President  
Roxy Hause - Secretary  
Bruce Brackman – Member  
Mike Kellam – Member  
Tara McConnell – Member  
Mary Settje - Member  
Steve Thorn - Alternate  
Pastor Ron Bockhaus

**Guests**

Linda Schlitt – Treasurer

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 pm by President Carolyn Jarmin. Devotions and prayer presented by Bruce Brackman.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report for January was sent out prior to the meeting. Discussion was held. **MOTION:** Motion was moved seconded and passed to approve the Treasurer's reports as presented. **APPROVED**

Linda Schlitt asked for approval to move \$10,000 from the innovation account to a 12 month CD. Discussion was held with the group agreeing **NOT** to approve the movement of these funds at this time. It was the opinion of the group that with the transition about to begin that we should not move funds that may be needed for transitions expenses yet to be determined. **MOTION:** Motion was made and seconded to NOT approve the transfer of funds at this time. Motion carried with 2 opposed.

**APPROVED**

Linda Schlitt asked that Kris Adams be appointed as the liaison with the Northern Colorado Conference until a permanent pastor is in place. **MOTION:** Motion was moved and seconded to appoint Kris Adams as the liaison for the Northern Colorado Conference until a permanent pastor has been placed. Pastor Ron announced his approval of this appointment. Motion carried. **APPROVED**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed. **MOTION:** Motion was moved seconded and passed to approve all the minutes of the January meeting as presented. **APPROVED**

**Old Business**

**Constitution and Bylaws Update**

Carolyn announced that Roxy has completed the review of the documents with the synod required changes noted in the draft. Due to the length of the documents, the group agreed that a separate meeting needs to be held for review and discussion. This meeting will be held on **Monday, 19 February 2024 at 10:00 am at the church.**

### **Synod Assembly**

Kris and Bruce Adams have volunteered to attend the Synod Assembly in Loveland. **MOTION:** Motion was made and seconded to appoint Kris and Bruce Adams as delegates from SMLC to the Synod Assembly. Motion carried. **APPROVED**

### **New Business**

#### **Lenten Offering**

Discussion was held regarding the monies collected as the Lenten offering. **MOTION:** Motion was moved, seconded and passed to send the Lenten collections to the Larimer County Food Bank. Motion carried. **APPROVED**

#### **Easter Brunch**

The brunch after Easter service was discussed and it was agreed to move forward and plan the event. Carolyn will make announcements at church and in the constant contact. It will be a potluck and signup sheets will be placed in the narthex.

#### **Retirement Celebration**

Pastor Ron's retirement celebration is well underway with dinner being served on 25 February immediately following service. Roxy asked the Council to help with serving meals in the dining room and assist with clean up after the meal. Decorating and cooking will take place on Saturday 24 February beginning at 1:00 pm.

#### **Ukrainian Community**

Bruce Brackman announced he had been contacted by Aaron at Crossroads on behalf of the Ukrainian Community. The Rocky Mountain Deli has been sold and the group is looking for a place to serve their community thank you luncheons. Bruce has not received any other information at this time but wanted the Council to know that they had reached out to us.

#### **Crossroads Easter Box Distribution**

As in the past, Crossroads had reached out to ask if they can use our building for the blessing box distribution the week of 18 March. Bruce reported he talked with Deborah and let her know that we will be serving a soup supper on Wednesday and will need to have the fellowship hall free for the meal. Roxy said she is on the committee at Crossroads to assist with this event and will work with Deborah to make sure we are able to accommodate both groups that week.

#### **Transition Meetings**

Carolyn announced that Pastor Dominic has reached out and will be meeting with the Council on **Saturday, 2 March from 9:00-10:30 am and with the Transition Committee from 10:30 am to Noon.**

#### **Why Church**

Carolyn mentioned to the group to review the Why Church documents on the Synod website. It is possible that we might want to use these documents during our transition work. Roxy will ask Jim to print the documents for the Council.

## **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Ron reported the following :

- a. Pastor reported the Worship and Music Committee met this morning and is working on liturgy and plans for Lent. Faith Johnson from the CSU Lutheran Campus Ministry will be speaking on Sunday, 11 February.
  - b. Ash Wednesday service will be held at 5:30 pm on 14 February. Lenten soup suppers will begin on 21 February at 5:00 pm. Preparations are being made for these dinners.
  - c. Funeral service for Gary Nelson will be held on 24 February at 10:00 am. Pastor Ron has shared with the group planning the service that we need to be able to access the church at 1:00 pm on the same day to being the preparations for the retirement celebration the next day.
  - d. Care Ministry – Pastor Ron reported a group of eight interested people met to plan activities of the ministry. They will meet again on 15 February at 0830 via zoom to divide responsibilities for visitations and the administration of Holy Communion to those who cannot attend church. Bruce announced he has place two travel communion sets in the sacristy for members of the team to use as needed.
  - e. Pastor Ron reported he has completed the congregational records, certified the results and submitted to the Synod and ELCA.
  - f. Pastor reported he has reviewed the entire power church database that contains names and information on members, non members, visitors etc. He has established codes to better organize the data as follows:
    - DK – don't know
    - DE - deceased
    - FOC – friend of the congregation (included seasonal members)
    - MAT – member active
    - TR – transferred
- He explained how the database has been used and mentioned the Jim and Ruth both work on entering information into the database. Roxy offered to help with this going forward to keep it current.
- g. Pastor Ron reported that a member of council will need to talk to Jim about his plans for the future in the Administrative Assistant position.
  - h. Ann has been working on finding an accompanist and may have found a person to work part time. Julie Varlik is a pianist and could be available to us two Sunday's a month which would provide a break for Ann until a permanent person is found. Mrs. Varlik is not available until after Easter.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was closed with prayer at 3:45 pm.

Next meeting will be on 14 March at 2:00 pm at the church.