

Minutes of The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ Annual Meeting, 2023

March 12, 2023, 4:00pm

Reverend Randy Mayer offered the opening prayer.

Dennis St. John, Moderator, called the meeting to order after a quorum was established.

The minutes of TGS Annual Meeting, March 6, 2022, were unanimously approved. Dennis thanked Margaret Nagle for being secretary for those minutes.

Reverend Randy Mayer, senior minister, while referring to his report, also highlighted the challenges and accomplishments of the previous year: Moving out of Covid to a new normal, striving to keep the congregation together and safe; transitioning in worship to a new pianist, choir director, and band; strategic planning in the SOAR workshop; and moving the foodbank into the new building. He emphasized the effective work of the various teams. He thanked his staff and the congregation for its cooperation in moving forward together in all the challenges and planning.

Reverend Rebecca McElfresh, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth, thanked the congregation for supporting her time at Ghost Ranch where she reconnected with the roots of her call. She noted that pastoral care is always easier when done in person, so she is thankful to be out of Covid mode, back doing it in person. She expressed gratitude to the various groups assisting with pastoral care: the Care Team, making their cards and making calls; the Stephen Ministers, as well as the Meal Train coordinators and participants. She closed with an invitation to all to visit the Arts Studio, where spiritual growth and fellowship are happening.

Rick Irvin, giving the Treasurer's report, noted the congregation finished the year in a strong financial position while also accomplishing several major capital improvements. He presented the proposed 2023 budget, saying that pledges have met the proposed budget, and the congregation members are faithful in fulfilling their pledges. He then invited questions, which were followed by discussion. A motion "to accept the 2023 budget as presented at this annual meeting and to approve spending at this level until the 2024 budget is approved at the 2024 annual meeting" was made and passed unanimously. Rick gave special thanks to Nancy Bowen, who has served on the Finance Team for six years.

Dennis St. John referred members to the Annual Reports of the various teams and, after discussion, asked for a motion to accept the reports. Following the motion and its approval, he invited discussion.

Hathaway Cornelius presented the list of nominees for the coming year, bringing people's attention to the most recent list, dated March 12, 2023. He thanked the congregation for stepping up to serve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the slate of nominees.

The main topic of discussion in New Business was the need for a new sound system, including speakers and microphones. Randy Mayer emphasized the need to have the whole system evaluated, including the interference from the nearby radio station. The problem will be referred to the church's Facility's Team.

Closing remarks by Dennis St. John focused on his appreciation of the whole staff and the work of the various Teams. He noted major accomplishments of the past year and emphasized the foundation that the SOAR workshop established for future projects and plans, noting that work on some of those has already started, that we will move forward.

Kathy Babcock, newly elected moderator, thanked the congregation for its vote of confidence in her. She sees her main job as listening and hopes people will talk.

Rebecca McElfresh offered a closing prayer.

Kathy Babcock closed the meeting at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted,

SuEllen Shaw, Secretary