Shepherd of The Sierra Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

June 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Blatchford at 10:30 AM.

Quorum: 38 voting members signed in.

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor Hilton

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**: President Jim Blatchford made an amendment to the Agenda to add a Call Committee report as agenda item 6(b). M/S/C to approve the proposed agenda as amended.

**Announcement of New Members:** B. Family (Benjamin, Mitzi, Blake, Beau and Eli), Raymond J., Robert S., Patti S.

**Reading of Minutes:** M/S/C to waive the reading of the minutes. The minutes were distributed after the December 4, 2022 meeting and are currently available on the church website.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Hilton has been fulfilling his duties as the vacancy pastor since January 2023, including but not limited to, coordinating pulpit supply, leading services and building the bridge for our next called pastor.

**Call Committee:** Matt S. as chairman of the Call Committee, reported that the current list of pastoral candidates has been exhausted and the committee is awaiting an updated list from the District. If anyone has any thoughts or leads on someone they feel would be interested in the position, please complete and submit a Nomination form.

**Treasurer’s** **Report**: Jim M. reported that the cash flow is improving at this time (increase in membership and attendance). There was an excessive increase in the church’s insurance policy which is addressed further below.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Kristin T. advised members to contact her if they would be interested in signing up for automated payments (app and link available on website). This is a secure and consistent way to donate.

**Elder’s Report:** Jack C., Co-Head Elder (with Joe T.), reported that the Elders have regrouped after the loss of Bob K. Continue to look for members to join them. Thanked Pastor Hilton for his assistance and input.

**Trustee’s Report:** Rex R. has continued as the Trustee, however, he was out of town. Rex has recently worked on the telephone lines, getting the roof fixed and cleaning up the grounds, among many other projects. A position of Facilities Manager was created under the Trustee which was held by Diane Du. She recently resigned this position. She coordinated the calendar for the use of the building and determined that all entities using the building had insurance. Anyone interested in filling this position should reach out to a Council member.

**Fellowship Report:** Chair Doris Blatchford thanked Carolee for all her work in the past and thanked Matt S. and his family for all their work on the monthly fellowship breakfasts. The SOSOS have been reactivated and the schedule for the remainder of 2023 is on the opportunity table. There will be a July 4th parking lot party to enjoy the fireworks. The church picnic is scheduled for July 15th from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Sign up sheets are on the opportunity table.

**Evangelism Report:** Chair Cathie C. thanked the congregation for their generous donations for Northern Nevada Dream Center, Life Choices and FISH. The Evangelism Team is available to help anyone requesting assistance in the congregation. Movie Night was successful.

**Old Business:** Council Vice President Sam R. reported that the Council decided not to pursue the request to amend the Constitution and ByLaws to include confirmands’ under the age of 18 to vote on church matters. This is partly due to State laws stating that persons under the age of majority lack legal capacity to enter into contracts. All changes to the church Constitution and ByLaws must be approved by the District and the District does not approve of this at this time.

**New Business**

The church insurance policy premium increased this year. The Council was up against a time restraint and approved the increase (over $5,000) without the congregation’s approval as stated in the Constitution. The insurance company also required several policies and procedures to be in place before issuing the policy (fingerprinting, background checks, employment applications). Since the time of the renewal of the insurance policy, a new insurance company has been contacted which has submitted a proposal for over $5,000 less than the previous policy (from approximately $13,000 to $7,000). M/S/C to raise the $5,000 threshold for insurance policy premium.

Jim Blatchford, as chairman of the eCommunications Committee, reported that there is a steady increase in the internet usage. Currently streaming Sunday services on YouTube and Facebook.

A new item to be included on the church website in the future will include Kim C. (Kim’s Kid Corner) wherein she will be reading books to younger persons.

Jim Blatchford is the contact person to assist the District’s Disability Ministry Committee (DMC) in assisting congregations to develop disability ministries by creating a short video depicting our mission to disabled people which will be posted on the District’s website.

Our Council Secretary, Debbie H., was given thanks for her outstanding work.

**Closing Prayer**: Jim Blatchford

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie H.