

Church of the Good Shepherd

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 19, 2025

In attendance:

- In Person: Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, Senior Warden Linda Webster, Melissa Battah, Russell Belding, Phyllis Bristow-Johnson, Kim Bryant, Brian Carrier, Samantha Conant, Burton Cooper, Reesie Dobrick, Amy Eschelbach, Rebecca Eschelbach, Rick Fiddock, Ron Hirsch, Elizabeth Kooperkamp, Monica McDonald, Pat McDonald, Scott McDonald, Felicia Martineau, Junior Warden Leo Martineau, Philip Moros, Beth Mueller, Joe Mueller, Joy Lee Packert, Betsy Reddaway, Danny Rousseau, Marjorie Strong, Tess Taylor, Cindy Willis, Jim Willis
- On Zoom: Lori Belding, Gail Cumming, George Philcox

I. **Opening Prayer**

The meeting opened at 10:41 AM with an opening prayer from The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp.

II. **Reading of the Behavioral Covenant** – Lead by Amy Eschelbach

III. **Review minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The 2024 minutes and the agenda, reports and budget documents for the 2025 meeting were published on the church website. There were no questions, concerns or further discussion about the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes. Rebecca Eschelbach moved to accept the minutes; Leo Martineau seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

IV. **Senior Warden Report** submitted and read by Linda Webster

A. **Becoming Beloved Community (BBC) Year in Review** ~ submitted report detailed activities for the following categories: 1) General/Administrative (Rev. Earl Kooperkamp/ Senior & Junior Wardens/Vestry), 2) Music & Worship, 3) Mission Outreach, 4) Caring for Each Other, 5) Programming for Families, 6) Growth, Finances & Clergy, and 7) Community (Tess Taylor). In addition, individual written reports were submitted for the following teams:

- a) **Caring for Each Other** ~ report submitted by Christina Hirsch
- b) **Mission Outreach** ~ report submitted by Beth Mueller

- c) **Programming for Children and Families** ~ report submitted by Amy Eschelbach
- d) **Growth, Clergy & Finance/Stewardship and Planned Giving Programs** ~ reports submitted by Ron Hirsch
- e) **Worship and Music** ~ report submitted by Marjorie Strong
- f) **Garden Committee** ~ report submitted by Cindy Willis
- g) **Pet Pantry** ~ report submitted by Linda Webster

**B. Kitchen Oversight Committee** ~ Philip Moros

This committee was formed at the request of the Vestry to create short and long-term goals for the facility, to facilitate scheduling of and communication between the various groups using the space, to create a list of expectations for kitchen use, and to plan for possible redesign of the space while addressing immediate pressing needs in the kitchen as they arise. The committee met for the first time 11/20/2024.

Members include Phillip Moros (chairperson), Beth Mueller (clerk), Christina Hirsch, Lindi Liimatainen, Leo Martineau, Joe Mueller, Joy Lee Packert, and Marjorie Strong.

The use of the kitchen has expanded, primarily due to an increase in food ministries. Because of this, there will likely be discussion about redesigning the space. Committee recommendations will be brought to the congregation for approval before any major work is done.

Linda Webster shared that there is a gift in the works that will hopefully allow for an architect to assess the space and provide options for the best setup for the kitchen.

**C. Congregational Meetings** ~ see New Business

**V. Junior Warden Report** ~ Leo Martineau

**A. Heating System**

The biggest project of 2024 was the replacement of the heating system. Lajeunesse Construction was the general contractor, Peak Mechanical the actual plumbing outfit, Benoit Electric the electricians, and AmeriGas our gas company. The church now has a propane boiler with programmable smart thermostats and high-efficiency pumps. There are 4 heating zones in the church; 3 spares were piped in should we

want to break up the heating load in the future, such as in the kitchen or office areas. The building was heating domestic hot water off the oil boiler. It now has an electric heat pump hot water system. AmeriGas supplied the 60-gallon tank for free and charged for the gas line from the tank to the building. They fill 1000-gallon tanks up 80% and charged \$1.90/gallon for the initial fill. Earl advised Leo that we may be heating the church at ½ the price that we were before the new system.

## **B. Lighting**

Lighting inside and outside of the church has been improved. Exterior lights on the side of the building are now on a photocell which turns on outside lights and at the entrance to show the stained glass. There are now exit and emergency lights in the sanctuary as well as canopy lighting under the front awning that is run by photocell and allows for both improved visibility and security. Leo would like strong spotlights to light the other 2 windows out front. A quality hanging light would be nice to replace the spotlights on the frontside, but this is not a priority. Benoit Electric repaired exit lights and installed emergency lights in the bathrooms. Leo received an email from Benoit Electric stating that the exit light installs and repairs were done at no expense and that they were giving the church \$2,000 in thanks for all that the Church of the Good Shepherd has done for the community.

## **C. Heat Trace**

A heat trace is a self-regulating heating cable that prevents ice dams and snow buildup. A permanently energized outlet was installed outside for a heat trace. Leo had heat traces installed on the roof so ice will melt instead of falling and crushing the stairs or people in the vicinity.

## **D. Trash/Recycling**

The church is using new haulers that come on Thursdays to remove trash and recycle that comes from the church and the rectory. The 2 outside bins hold 95-gallon bags; extra bags are draped over the bin to be available for placement. Leo is looking for someone to place a bag in the receptacles if the hauler doesn't do so. He also needs someone in charge of breaking down cardboard into 2' square pieces.

## **E. Future work**

- 1) There is a pump station near the emergency exit out of undercroft that has 2

pumps that are both dead but can only be worked on by a licensed master plumber. 2) An outlet needs to be installed closer to the garden. 3) Water runs into the boiler room when it rains. The chimney is no longer necessary since the new boiler is vented outside. Leo obtained a masonry quote for \$4,000 to tear the chimney down to the peak, put a stainless-steel cover over it, then seal the bricks so they can breathe. 4) Leo obtained a \$2,100 quote to cap the rain gutters so they don't need to be dredged, move the downspout to go into the drain that currently goes around the building, and add another downspout to eliminate emptying onto pavement and freezing. Ron Hirsch asked if the chimney and gutter expenses were included in the 2025 budget. They were not. 5) Though Leo has not seen evidence of mice, he noted that there is a cold room where the oil tanks used to be that could store potatoes, etc. If that

Brian Carrier noted that the sidewalk out front is often iced so people normally use the side entrance. He believes it would look more inviting if more used the front.

Kim Bryant suggested the sign out front be updated to reflect new service times.

VI. **Pastor's Report** ~ submitted and read by The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp

VII. **Treasurer Report - 2025 Budget** ~ Tess Taylor, Treasurer

ANNUAL NET FOR 2024: \$1,878.07. Pledges (line item 1704) were healthy but only 94% of where expected. Unrestricted gifts (line item 1714) were high, in part due to an unexpected pledge from Libby Ralph's son at the end of year and the \$2,000 gift from Benoit Electric. Restricted Grant Roll Over (line item 1715) shows \$4,550 that will be rolled over into the new year. Day Labor (line item 2713.4) ~ \$1,628.92 is the fee paid to Keith Bonds for his work staffing the warming shelter, but the city will be sending a check for \$6,000 that will cover his wages and a lot of the expenses of running the shelter (e.g., heat, electricity). Nearly \$20,000 was raised for the Poor People's Campaign, Good Samaritan Haven, and flood relief. Tess would like to give a report in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to show who has been served through the warming shelter and other activities. Tess thanked Earl for maintaining a strong, important relationship with the leaders and ministries from other congregations. She noted that we are all strong when we are all together and this is reflected in our work and theirs.

BALANCE SHEET FIGURES: TOTAL CASH \$80,009.25 (this does not include the \$6,000 that will be coming from the city of Barre). TOTAL ASSETS: \$415,479.94. This is down from 2023 (\$453,528.66) due to work done on the facility.

Philip Moros asked why the line item 2711.5 (Pension) 2025 budgeted amount (\$4,000) is less than the 2024 budgeted amount (\$7,426). Earl responded that we are paying at a lesser rate as the pension is based on the highest 7 consecutive years of earning, which he has already met. 2024 actual: \$3,957.96.

Kim Bryant: Line item 2725 (Outreach). The actual figure for 2024 was \$2,456.29 but has been budgeted at \$4,000 for 2025. This is mostly monies paid for reimbursements for various feeding programs. The number has increased as we will be doing more outreach activities.

The Vestry passed the budget for adoption. Moved by the Vestry; seconded by Rebecca Eschelbach. No further discussion. All in favor of adopting the 2025 budget as proposed by the Vestry. No abstentions. Budget adopted.

#### **VIII. Election of Vestry members**

Linda Webster is stepping down as senior warden and as a Vestry member. There is an opening to become a co-junior warden with Leo Martineau as he completes a second term. Individuals do not need to be vestry members to hold either of the warden positions. Rebecca Eschelbach moved to nominate Marjorie Strong for a 3-year Vestry term; Tess Taylor seconded. No other nominations were presented. There was no further discussion. All present were in favor of accepting Leo Martineau for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term and Marjorie Strong for a 1<sup>st</sup> term. Motion accepted. Earl indicated that he will appoint Marjorie to serve as senior warden; she has held the position in the past. The congregation thanked Linda Webster for her amazing service and dedication to the church in her leadership role.

#### **IX. Election of Convention Delegates**

Tess Taylor, Philip Moros and Russell Belding offered to serve as 2025 convention delegates and Melissa Battah, Pat McDonald and Elizabeth Kooperkamp as alternates. No opposition or abstentions. Motion accepted by acclamation.

#### **X. New Business**

Congregational meetings were held after the 2024 Annual Meeting. Meetings will be held again this year, starting in early February. These meetings allow everyone in the church a say in future planning as they voice their thoughts on what worked, needed more work, and didn't work in 2024. This look at outcomes is what helps assess progress towards goals and the potential next steps that might be needed to meet them.

A sign-up sheet for facilitators, scribes and attendees was on the back table in the sanctuary for the following upcoming congregational meetings:

- Sunday -- Feb. 2nd, 8:30 AM, In person meeting
- Sunday -- Feb. 2nd, 10:30 AM, In person meeting
- Monday -- Feb. 3rd, 1:00 PM, Zoom meeting
- Monday -- Feb. 3rd, 6:00 PM, Zoom meeting
- Tuesday -- Feb. 4th, 1:00 PM, In person meeting
- Tuesday -- Feb. 4th, 6:00 PM, In person meeting

**XI. Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed with a joint reading of the church mission statement: The Church of the Good Shepherd is a community gathered by God through Jesus Christ to witness to the presence of God in our lives, to teach and to learn the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to care for others in and out of this church.

Rick Fiddock moved to adjourn the meeting; Philip Moros seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindi Liimatainen, Clerk of the Vestry