

Gold Hill Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2021

The annual meeting of Gold Hill Lutheran Church was called to order by Mike Lawson, President. Pastor Carrels said a prayer and opened the worship for this Sunday. The readings were appropriate for our annual meeting centralizing around the theme of “Coming back together”. The annual meeting is usually held in January, but due to Covid we were unable to hold the meeting until now. At the close of the service the meeting continued.

The attendance, taken by signature, numbered 52, 50 of whom are voting members of the congregation. Heatherlynn Meeks moved, Julie Corbin, seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting as printed in the reports. The motion carried.

President’s Report: Mike Lawson, President, directed everyone to read his report found in the Annual Report Document 2020, page 13. He added that there are some additions to his report. Since Mike had submitted his written report there was a fire in the church. It began in the basement in an area 5 X 5 square feet. Mary noticed the smoke when she entered the church and called the fire department, Pastor, Curt, and Mike. It was a suppression fire, and the cause is unknown. We are working with Dayspring Restoration, who estimate the damage at approximately 1 million dollars. The church is insured for 2 million dollars. Ken, the head of the project for Dayspring, is meeting weekly with Pastor, Curt, and Mike. Mike said that there will be a weekly report sent to everyone following their meeting. At this time, it is estimated that the Fellowship Hall will be able to be opened to us as early as August. Quilters were able to go into their area and collect items that they wanted.

The council has been able to discuss – agree and disagree – on matters throughout the past year. They are open to comment, suggestions, and advice. They do not hesitate to bring matters of importance to the table – meetings.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Carrels directed us to his report on pages 9-11 of the Reports Booklet. He would like to spend the latter part of this year on Stewardship – not necessarily that of money, but of the gifts and talents we possess and how we can share them within and without on behalf of the congregation. He thanked everyone for their understanding and flexibility during this difficult time.

Financial Report: Revonda gave the report for 2020. We were \$17,843 underbudget, but because our expenses were also under budget, we ended the year with only a loss of \$3800. We have the three-year loan on the roof. The loan is from the Trust Committee. Due to generous donations earmarked for the roof we are ten months ahead in repayment of this debt.

Old Business: Ron Gruss, chair of the Trust Review Committee, reported on the findings of the committee and referred everyone to their report booklet. The recommendation of the committee was to dissolve the Trust and have the care of the Trust money under the council. There were questions and discussion on the reasons for dissolving the trust. Curt recommended we wait until people have time to hear more about what the purpose of the Trust is and how it works. When asked why the recommendation was to dissolve the Trust Ron said it was because it is too difficult to find anyone to serve on the committee, especially anyone who has the background needed to be managing the funds. Curt said it was because the Trust had been doing two important things – giving scholarships and they have not had a request in several years and to distribute Bibles to third graders and we don’t have Sunday School. Pastor stated that the ELCA has a representative who could come and talk to us about Trusts. Heatherlynn moved, Linda Moore seconded that we postpone the vote on the recommendation of the Trust until the congregation has more information. The motion passed.

New Business: As Bishop Laurie stated in her report to the synod technology is going to a very important aspect of our churches from now on. We have started and know that we will need to continue to reach people through technology.

The council is setting up a Task Force to be the advisory group to help with the restoration of the church. The council is asking for five members of the congregation to help on this Task Force. Mike Lawson and Pastor Carrels will be advisory members of the committee. People who stated that they would be willing to serve on this committee were Shelly Anderson, Miriam Haley, Dave Stordahl, Rande Farrow, Peggy Graving, Kathy Hurlbert, Heatherlynn Meeks, and Dave Coleman. The council will select five individuals from this list.

Julie Corbin, Spiritual Minister, announced that VBS will be held at Gloria Dei outside this year. She will be looking for volunteers to help with the snacks. Pat Gruss will teach the 3–5-year-olds and Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Counselors will teach the first through sixth graders. The registration form is on our website. We need a home where the counselors can shower. VBS will be June 28th through July 1st from 9-1:30.

Election of Officers:

Council President –	Mike Lawson –	2 nd term to end in 2023
Council Treasurer –	Danette Fitzpatrick –	1 st term to end in 2023
Spiritual Growth Minister –	Pat Gruss –	1 st term to end in 2023
Worship Minister –	Chris Ketchum –	2 nd term to end in 2023
Outreach Minister –	Nicholas Conlan –	1 st term to end in 2022
Trust Committee –	Vern Nielsen –	second term to end in 2026
Audit Committee –	Linda Moore –	1 st term to end in 2024
FLBC –	Julie Corbin and Heatherlynn Meeks	(1 year term) (1 year term)
Nominating Committee:	Annette Lawson Dick Fitzpatrick Miriam Haley	Dorothy Anne Honeychurch Revonda Stordahl

Synod Assembly: Mike Lawson and Peggy Graving

Paul Vang moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. Arlene Munyon seconded the motion and the above mentioned were unanimously elected.

Proposed Budget Adoption: Revonda briefly reviewed the budget that we have been working under since January. There was a question from Rande Farrow regarding the large other receipts. Revonda answered that that was the receipt of the insurance receipt for the roof. There were no other questions. Heatherlynn moved and Karen Galpin seconded the motion. The budget was accepted as presented.

Other Comments: Peggy Graving thanked Pastor, Chris, and the worship committee for all their work during this difficult covid time. She thanked also those who served as ushers, etc. for the services outside. Peggy also thanked Revonda and Julie for their service on the council.

Refreshments are in front of the sculpture.

The meeting was closed with prayer. Dorothy Anne Honeychurch moved and Heatherlynn Meeks moved to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Graving, Secretary to the Council