

## **Council Minutes for Gold Hill Lutheran Church October 8, 2019**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Mike Lawson, President.** The following answered roll call: Mike Lawson, President; Curt Quist, Administrative Assistant; Peggy Graving, Secretary; Julie Corbin, Spiritual Ministry; Jerry Aaker, Outreach Ministry; Chris Ketchum, Worship Ministry; Lynn Aniksdal, Leadership Ministry and Pastor Trina Johnsten. Revonda Stordahl, Treasurer, absence was excused.

**Pastor Trina led us in devotions** using the lesson for Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September from Luke 17: 11-19. The story is of the Lepers that greeted Jesus and asked for his mercy, yet only one of the ten lepers came back to thank Jesus for their cleansing. How would being determined a leper affect your life? What would you miss?

**Curt moved and Lynn seconded the acceptance of the minutes** as corrected and emailed from the September council meeting.

There was no treasurer's report this month.

### **Reports of the council members:**

**Mike reported that we do have a new interim Pastor – Pastor Trina Johnsten.** She is in the process of moving into the parsonage and has joined us for the meeting. Pastor Trina is revising the letters that we reviewed at the last meeting concerning inactive members. The letters will be mailed to the identified members in November. Pastor Trina had looked at the official membership numbers sent to the Bishop's office and we are not at the number that has been reported and she says that this first mailing will be a beginning to our updating of the membership rolls.

Curt moved to remove Pastor Laurie's name from the Samaritan account at the bank and to add Pastor Trina's name to the account. Julie seconded the motion and it was passed. Curt visited with Bill Smyers to inquire about the church not having a service for his sister. Bill said that his sister did not want a service. Curt asked if there was anything else, we could do for him and he said he was fine. He is being serviced as one of our shut-ins. The fire extinguishers were examined and seven were found to be out of date – more than 25 years old. They need to be replaced. Curt will visit with Dick Fitzpatrick, a volunteer fireman, to see what the recommended number of extinguishers is for our size building. Estimated cost of each extinguisher is \$300. Curt will work with the Trust Committee and Ron Gruss, chairman, to complete the Trust Resolution that was passed at the 2018 congregational annual meeting. This resolution asks the members of the review committee to decide whether we need to reinvest or give the money to the church and dissolve the trust.

**Lynn Aniksdal provided a written report attached.** She highlighted the work done on the brick work by Mike Vincent, the freshening up and new carpet at the parsonage and the completion of the outside window wells. Any inside work will hopefully be completed over the Christmas holidays when the preschool is not in session. Bruce is looking into window well covers for the new window wells. They will help keep the rain, cats, leaves, etc. out of the window wells. Lynn will check with Revonda so see what funds remain for this.

**Chris Ketchum highlighted her written report with the plans for Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and Advent.** A Thanksgiving service was discussed, and the decision of the council was to not have a service. Other service ideas will be discussed at their next meeting with Pastor Trina. Discussion at the worship committee meeting had someone other than Dave Coleman possibly playing for Lent. Per his contract Dave would have the first right to play and if he doesn't want the added services possibly Sue Repola will play. Chris reported that there are hymnals that have coloring in them, and Chris asked for guidance on what we should do. We decided that is the reality of having children in our midst and we will ignore for now.

Julie reported that she has been frustrated with the attendance at the Theology on Tap and Family Night. She is going to step back from them for a while. Sunday School has been a challenge due to the ages of the children and some discipline problems she is having. The suggestions made were to split the age levels and to have another adult with you during Sunday School. We are sorry that she is having these difficulties and thank her for trying everything she has been trying for the children and the adults. She does have a crafts

night on the second Thursday night for anyone who wants to come and do their own crafts. It is for fellowship providing those who work time to get together with other members of our congregation. Julie would like to have a Christmas Program this year. With the limited number of children attending, she may ask adults for their help.

Jerry Aaker had no report for Outreach Ministry this month.

Peggy hoped that everyone saw the YAGM Report emailed with the newsletter last month. The report highlighted Jackie Stenberg's first month in Rwanda. Pastor Trina will find out if we are able to send a care/holiday package to Jackie without cost to her.

**New Business:**

It is time for everyone to begin working on their preparation of the budget. Look at your expenses for this year and any expenses you think you will occur next year and be ready to provide a worksheet.

Discussion was held on how the housing allowance works for Pastor Trina and the following resolution was agreed upon:

In order to permit Rev. Trina Johnsten to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, the council specifies that the total compensation paid to her during the fiscal year 2019 includes a housing allowance. Rev. Trina Johnsten estimates that she will spend \$4000 during the year for housing expenses. Since such approval by the council would permit her to deduct that amount from her taxable income and has no further effect upon our congregation or budget, it was:

**RESOLVED**

That the total compensation of \$7899.25 paid to Rev. Trina Johnsten for 2019 includes a housing allowance of \$4000.

**Old Business:**

**Pat Gruss attended the meeting to discuss the Special Olympics dinner we are hosting.** We will be provided the food to prepare a turkey dinner for 150 of the athletes. The athletes will attend the dinner in shifts. The dinner will be on Friday, November 8th. We had questions on when the food would be delivered and how many turkeys we will be cooking. She will get back to us with more details. Pat will be our liaison with the Special Olympics Dinner Committee. Pastor Trina will be our liaison with the Butte Ministerial.

**Lynn reported that the MSP has been sent to the synod and they have confirmed that they have received it for review.**

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peggy Graving, Secretary