

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
12650 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE ROAD, APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124
Minutes of Congregational Meeting
Date: 9/14/2025
On-Site Sanctuary

Call to Order: President Paul Moyer called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM noting satisfaction of meeting quorum. Paul reviewed the agenda. Pastor Rob Carlson shared an opening prayer.

Minutes: After review of the Council-approved meeting minutes of June 8, 2025, Congregational Meeting, Melissa Taphorn moved to approve and ratify the minutes by the congregation. The motion was seconded by Anna Goyette. The minutes were unanimously approved and ratified by the congregation. Zero no votes and zero abstentions.

Appreciation: Paul Moyer shared words of appreciation directed to staff and volunteers for all their work and commitment over the last year.

FY 2025-2026 Budget: Dick Rank, Treasurer and Finance Leadership Team Chair, reviewed the fiscal year close 2024-2025 and presented the Council-approved fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Shepherd of the Valley fiscal year runs August 1 – July 31 annually.

Dick thanked the congregation for their increased support by offerings and the Finance Committee members. Dick noted an acknowledgement of success to the implementation of the new Stewardship Program in partnership with Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) launched in November 2024. Fiscal year 2024-2025 closed the year with \$2.792 million in income/gifts and \$2.876 million in expenses. The year ended unfavorably, by -\$83,709. It was noted that we still ended the year, almost \$110,000 ahead of the budget.

Also noted, there were some positions that went unfilled. Leadership will continue to work on staff structures over the course of the new year. Facilities projects included in the 2024-2025 fiscal year include sanctuary LED lighting conversion, dry sprinkler repairs, antiphonal organ structure support, parking lot maintenance, technology upgrades, and the production project in the sanctuary.

Important items to note in the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget include:

- Stewardship for All Seasons budgeted at \$200K increase to budget
- Some open positions have been removed from the budget for evaluation and consideration of adding in appropriately over the course of the new fiscal year.
- Parking lot and sidewalk maintenance
- Sanctuary technology project completion
- HVAC repair and maintenance

Additional funds for SOTV were also reviewed. These funds are separate from the General Fund. These funds are not budgeted for or voted on by the congregation. These are additional sources of financial support for the various ministry areas of SOTV.

- Endowment Fund
- Designated Funds

Funded Benevolence; Special Gifts; Ministry Events

Discussion: Questions were asked regarding healthcare increase (6% increase), balance of mortgage (\$529K).

Paul Moyer called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget as presented. Kris Moyer moved to approve the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Neil MacNaughton seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved by the congregation. Zero no votes and zero abstentions.

Constitutional Amendment: returning secretary role as a voting member of the Council, but not an officer. Melissa Taphorn moved to approve the amendments. Brad Nelson seconded the motion. The amendment was unanimously approved by the congregation. Zero no votes and zero abstentions.

Secretary: Carleen Melin was presented for a first term to serve as Council Secretary. Melissa Taphorn moved to approve Carleen Melin for Secretary of Church Council. Jennifer Davidson seconded the motion. Carleen Melin was unanimously approved for Secretary of Council by the congregation. Zero no votes and zero abstentions.

Call Committee: Paul Moyer thanked Pastor Rob for his leadership in the interim. Paul also thanked Dar Spiegelberg, Call Committee Chair and the members of the call committee.

Recommendation for Call: Dar Spiegelberg thanked the Call Committee, leadership team, Council, Pastors and staff for their engagement and dedication throughout the process. Since January 21, 2024, group has met weekly and dedicated much time and energy, above and beyond those weekly meetings, to the process. Dar gave some highlights of the process from updating Senior Pastor job description, ministry site profile, nominations, interview process preparation, etc.

Call Committee, unanimously and enthusiastically, recommends Pastor Corey Fuhrman for Senior Pastor. Council has unanimously approved the recommendation for Call. Dar Spiegelberg presented an extensive summary of the recommendation for call, to the congregation. The congregation was able to view a video message from Pastor Corey addressing the congregation. Note: A congregational meet & greet with Pastor Corey was available to the congregation the weekend prior to the vote.

David Linner moved to approve the recommendation for call. Marie Jordan seconded the motion. The Congregation then voted via paper ballot.

210 votes collected. It was a unanimous approval by the congregation to call Pastor Corey Fuhrman to serve as Senior Pastor at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church beginning November 6, 2025.

Adjourn: Paul Moyer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kris Ehresmann moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:34 PM. Randal Hemmerlin seconded the motion. The congregation voted unanimously to approve the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Melin, Church Council Secretary

Approved by Council _____