

Shepherd of the Valley Church
Congregational Council Meeting December 10, 2017

Congregational Meeting called to order by Susan Lux: proposed budget, council member election, and the vote regarding Pastor Miguel Acosta.

Supply preacher Ken Reinoehl started the meeting with prayer.

Guest John Sleasman from the Synod office. Here to help and guide as much as possible and to record the vote.

There were 60 eligible voters and congregation in agreement.

Budget:

*Carol questioned the Pastor salary assuming it was based on paying a supply pastor? Jeff Ward explained it was a little difficult to come up with, that it was based on a supply pastor, interim, and then actually how the vote ends up coming out.

Vote for the 2018 Budget motioned carried by majority of congregation raising their hand.

Council Members for 2018:

4 members leaving

10 members on ballot

Can only vote for 4; a vote for more makes the ballot null.

*Carol questioned if Fred Drotleff was able to run since his sister, Karen Broadwater is already on council. John Sleasman answered the question by saying there is no issue, congregation agreed to accept his answer.

Ballots were counted by Brian Lux and Jeff Ward.

John took this time to explain why he is present today. He stated that when a vote is taken regarding a rostered Pastor that normally the Bishop is in attendance; however, the Bishop had 2 prior engagements. John said he is here to answer any questions and to register the vote.

*Carol Richards asked if she would be able to address the congregation.

Susan Lux re-read the letter the Bishop wrote and submitted to council on November 16, 2017 regarding the allegations made against Pastor Miguel Acosta.

*Question asked by Max Lebold, if we vote to end his call do we have to pay the 3-month severance pay, does the vote have to go together? John, from the synod, stated that if the congregation would want to vote on those separately then we would have to call another congregational meeting and have another discussion. He also stated that the 3-month severance pay is standard within the synod.

*Dan Neary asked is it the majority or percentage of voting members present today needed to follow the synod's recommendation? The answer given was yes.

*Bill Bowman asked how do we know the ones voting are members and Susan Lux explained that is why she had everyone count they we did at the beginning to get a valid count of voting members present today.

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Another member asked how long of a time frame are we looking at if the vote decides not to follow the Synod recommendation and the time frame can be very lengthy, answered by John Sleasman.

Jeff Ward and Brian Lux concluded the council member 2018 vote:

Bill Bowman, Chris Pontones, Marilyn Mason, and Terri Wanner were elected.

Return to Pastoral vote:

*Carol Richards addressed the congregation regarding matters regarding the allegations brought against Pastor Miguel Acosta.

*Bill Bowman recommended to follow the Synod recommendation

*John Sleasman addressed and explained the process that has gone on through the Synod and the different committees that are overseeing this process. He also explained how our church would still be in limbo if the vote would go towards not following the Synod's recommendation because Pastor Miguel will still have to face a disciplinary committee, and this still could be a very lengthy process.

*Susan Lux took a moment to speak personally regarding this matter.

Brian Lux made a motion to call for vote (question)

Susan Lux then closed the ballot vote. Jeff Ward and Brian Lux gathered all votes and counted them in the sanctuary.

John Sleasman asked Ken Reinoehl to lead the congregation in prayer before the vote is recorded.

Vote in: Yes 40
No 17
3 abstained

The Congregation of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church has voted to follow the recommendation of the Synod to rescind the Pastoral Call of Miguel Acosta.

Jennifer Crone asked if the investigation will continue and it will.

Carol Richards announced she and Ron will be leaving this church so there will not be a first service anymore.

Jeff Ward motioned to adjourn
Michelle Ward 2nd the motion

Susan Lux adjourned the congregational meeting.