

SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE CHURCH SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

November 26, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting

11:30 am Business Meeting – Auditorium

Open in Prayer

1. **Call to Order & Welcome** – Grace Albers

2. **Acknowledge New Members**

- a. Gloria Berridge
- b. Avey Christiansen
- c. Russell Letkeman
- d. Diane Letkeman
- e. Sandra Van Steenberg
- f. Cosette Wilson
- g. Ken Wilson
- h. Graham English
- i. Ken Przybilla
- j. Cheryl Przybilla
- k. Wendy English
- l. Donna Frentz
- m. Brem Frentz
- n. Ed Holland

3. **Approve Agenda**

MOTION – Moved by Brody Jespersen; seconded by James Choi to *Approve the Agenda*. Carried.

4. **Approve Minutes of Congregational Meeting – June 19, 2023**

MOTION – Moved by Sharon Hoepfner; seconded by Tom Hollinshead to *Approve the Minutes of the Congregation Budget Meeting from June 19, 2023*. Carried.

5. **Ministry Reports**

Greg Hochhalter – Lead Pastor. Gave an update on the new vision of the church which is to belong and become.

Gabe Lucente (Hospitality Pastor) and Emma Ness (Hospitality Volunteer) – Spoke about the progress they have been making in terms of welcoming people who are new to the church. They have designed an Integration Pathway which has been implemented to help people not just feel welcome but to get involved with the church and to feel part of the community. Over 100 people have attended Pizza with the Pastor this past year. Emma said that the feeling of community here at Sherwood Park Alliance is the biggest reason that she feels connected to the church. She wants to keep creating this feeling of community by sharing with others who are new to the church.

James Choi (Groups Pastor) & Jamie Speer (Groups Volunteer) – Jamie has met a great group of people who they consider friends. They are behind the vision of Belong & Become. Learning what it means to becoming deeply connected followers of Jesus has been an integral part of their life and their family for the past year. Jamie was recently baptized, and he shared his story with us all.

Dwayne Uglem (Ministry Support Pastor), Bonnie Edgecombe and Taylor Walsh (Care Volunteers) – Shared stories of how Jesus has been transforming both themselves as well as the people they have been working with:

- Bonnie Edgecombe – co-leads the Sanctuary Group. She said when she was initially asked to help, she felt unqualified, but was so thankful that agreed to do this. God is using her gifts to help create a safe place for others who are struggling with mental health challenges.
- Taylor Walsh – also felt inadequate upon being asked to lead. She shared that it's not about checking the right boxes, it's about showing up and letting God transform individuals' lives.

6. Approval of Audited Statements

Glen Tjostheim (Treasurer) gave the financial update:

- He expressed thanks to God for providing again for another year. When at the beginning of the year things looked bleak God has again provided. It was the first time in a number of years since giving exceeded the budget. The budget was set at 2.9M and we ended with 2.922M through giving.
- He thanked Sandra Janzen, Colleen Hildebrand and Dwayne Uglem for all their work.

MOTION by Glen Tjostheim; seconded by Jim Thiessen to *approve the audited 2023 Financial Statement as presented.*

Questions:

Henry Schellenberg – asked for details on the North Atrium Link Refresh

Heather Massel – Asked why removal of the North Portable was so expensive. The explanation was that there was asbestos in the portable and abatement was required.

Colin LaRocque – asked what the most cost-effective way to tithe was. Explained that it was difficult to quantify this as some of the ways of donating required less fees, but more staff time and vice versa. So basically, the best way to donate was any way someone chooses.

Motion was Carried.

Glen shared a video provided by the National Ministry Centre which showed the work of the Jaffray Centre and explained that SPAC gave substantial donations to the Jaffray Centre.

7. Auditor Appointment

MOTION by Glen Tjostheim; seconded by Rudy Froese to *approve the appointment of Isaman Chopek LLP as Auditor for the Sherwood Park Alliance Church Society for the 2024 fiscal year*
Carried.

8. Nominating Committee Report/Approval of Elders

Janet Reynolds gave the report of the Nominating Committee.

MOTION by Janet Reynolds; seconded by Brandon Seutter to *approve the report of the Nominating Committee including the 2024 Nominating Committee members:*

- i. Eric Switzer*
- ii. Rebeka Kalamoutsos*

Motion was Carried

The Vote for the Elders was made by ballot to elect the following:

- i. Andy Trevoy – 1st Term*
- ii. Annemarie Elzinga – 1st Term*
- iii. Kyla Loewen – 1st Full Term (was originally appointed)*
- iv. Jonathan Stephenson – 1st Full Term (was originally appointed)*

Elders were voted into position.

9. Other Business

Brody Jespersen - gave an update on the Ministry Enhancement Project. All the equipment has been purchased and is now here on site. A lot of work has been done by Felipe Pinheiro to begin installing the equipment and making it work. Sarah Dyck has been working hard to get the new website up and running and it is now in place.

Greg Hochhalter – spoke about the Capital Fund Offering which will be taking place over the next few weekends. Our facility is ageing and there are a fair number of upgrades that need to take place to ensure our building can continue to meet our needs. The boilers need to be replaced and this will cost quite a bit, along with several other issues which are coming to light.

10. Close of Business Meeting

MOTION by Heather Massel, seconded by Tom Hollinshead to *close the meeting*; seconded by Tom. Carried

Questions, answers, and prayer:

- Elena Schellenberg – Explained that access to the parking lot was dangerous. Dwayne received this as an issue and agreed to come up with a plan.
- Tom Hollinshead – Noted that the MRF was double the amount of last year. Dwayne explained that there are a significant number of projects that will be coming our way soon.
- Henry Schellenberg – Explained that the number of donor households had gone from 1200 to 800. He was asking for an explanation about the decrease in numbers of people who feel they belong to SPAC. Have we asked these 400 people why they are no longer attending the church? Greg addressed his questions by saying yes he does make a point of asking to speak with people who had left the church. In fact, he had just had such a meeting in the past week. Covid did cause some people to leave and we are still feeling these affects today.
- Melissa Exton – what are we doing to make the building accessible to people with disabilities. Dwayne
- Mark Robertson – asked if there was any feedback to changing the Saturday service to 6:00 pm. Greg noted that there were only positive sentiments about making this change.
- Kayla – asked who is currently overseeing Justice and Compassion? Dwayne responded by saying that the Executive Leadership Team is jointly holding onto Justice and Compassion.
- Rudy Froese – Gave a compliment that both Greg and Brody looked superb online.
- Wendy - asked why people continue to attend online. Greg explained that although this isn't the preferred way for people to engage, some people just feel more comfortable. Some people check us out online and then attend in person. When people are out of town (ie. Snow birds) they continue to engage online with us. If people are sick or in the hospital etc. There are a number of reasons.