

SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE CHURCH SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

November 24, 2024

Minutes

11:30 am Business Meeting – Auditorium

Open in Prayer – Trent Forsberg

1. Call to Order – Grace Albers
2. Acknowledge New Members
 - a. Elizabeth Abraham
 - b. Jiju Mathew Paul
 - c. Ginger Bitzer
 - d. Corey Bitzer
 - e. Alison Blackley
 - f. Dave Blackley
 - g. Russ Bubenko
 - h. Michael Capuloy
 - i. Ivy Capuloy
 - j. Darren Driedger
 - k. Laurel Driedger
 - l. Sarah Dyck
 - m. Nathan Dyck
 - n. Monica Elfstedt
 - o. Omo Fabarebo
 - p. Erica Fabarebo
 - q. Jonah Komant
 - r. Zoe Komant
 - s. Rosella Moshansky
 - t. Perry Moshansky
 - u. Mark Van Steenberg

3. **MOTION** to Approve Agenda

MOTION – Nate Peters; **SECONDED** – Sharon Hoeppe

Tom Hollinshead asked for clarification on why there were two different agendas. Grace clarified that after the agenda had been published, congregants had asked for another agenda item to be added. An amended agenda was created, which is what we are now using for this meeting. The agenda with 10 items, which now includes item #9 HR Matter, is the agenda being approved.

CARRIED

4. **MOTION** to Approve Minutes of Congregational Meeting – June 9, 2024

MOTION – Rob Szkarlat; **SECONDED** – Jon Spronk

CARRIED

5. Ministry Reports

Grace read the Ministry Report in the meeting document package and celebrated some of the exciting things happening in our church.

Dwayne – celebrated that our staff health has been increasing substantially since 2021; gave a brief update on finances and building operations.

Jeremy – gave thanks to those who serve on all the boards in our church, to our staff team and to our volunteers. He gave an update on our 3 “P’s” (purpose, priorities and practices) and our Mission.

6. Annemarie Elzinga gave an overview of our financial position and made the **MOTION** to approve the audited 2024 Financial Statement as presented; **SECONDED** by Jonathan Hay; **CARRIED**.

7. Annemarie Elzinga made the **MOTION** to approve the appointment of Isaman Chopek LLP as Auditor for the Sherwood Park Alliance Church Society for the 2025 fiscal year; **SECONDED** by Rudy Froese; **CARRIED**.

8. Eric Switzer presented the Nominating Committee Report and introduced both the Nominated Elders and the 2025 Nominating Committee Members.

- a. Eric made the **MOTION** to *approve the report of the Nominating Committee including the 2025 Nominating Committee members:*

i. *Victoria Molnar*

ii. *Suresh Das*

SECONDED by Dianne Szkarlat; **CARRIED**.

The Vote by Ballot for Board of Elders was taken for:

iii. *Duane Seelochan*

iv. *Jonathan Carlzon*

VOTE took place and Elders were **APPROVED** and voted into position.

9. HR Matter – Dwayne Uglem introduced the item which had been brought to the meeting by a number of congregants. He outlined that the matter was in relation to Brody Jespersen's completion of employment with the church. Dwayne cautioned that this matter had to deal with real people and that we need to enter into discussion with great care. He reminded everyone that a lot of HR details cannot publicly be discussed, in order to protect the individual's right to privacy.

Dwayne read the public statement that was sent out to the congregation when it had first been announced that Brody would be released from his position here at Sherwood Park Alliance Church. Dwayne noted that the Jespersen Family had been cared for in a number of different ways including the invitation to pass on cards of blessing and encouragement for the Jespersen family.

Tom Hollinshead – noted that no love offering had been taken for Brody when he left his employment at SPAC. He made the **MOTION** That a love offering be taken on the weekend of December 7/8 for Brody Jespersen and that all methods of communication be done as are typically done with an announcement such as this. **SECONDED** by Teresa Jenkinson.

Colin LaRocque –asked that the love offering not only be taken on the weekend of December 7/8, but that it be open to give to for a period of two weeks (this was treated as a friendly amendment and confirmed that this would be the practice in this case).

Conversation included:

- (a) disappointment in the board's response to a congregant via a generic email;
- (b) a question if this was typical protocol for a termination (i.e. have all terminations at SPAC had love offerings; Dwayne indicated he wasn't sure);
- (c) the observation that someone was not aware of any staff who had been terminated without a love offering;
- (d) a reminder that we elect our elders to represent us and that we should put our trust in the elders to make the best decision;
- (e)an expression of encouragement for all our elders;
- (f) a question of if there were legal ramifications to accepting a delayed love offering (Dwayne indicated that it would be subject to all standard taxes);
- (g) a note of support for the elders;
- (h) a note of disappointment in the way Brody was treated and how he didn't get a proper goodbye;

Jeremy Massell – made the **MOTION** to **AMEND the MOTION** to be determined by way of a secret ballot. **SECONDED** - Leanne Seelochan

Discussion included:

- (a) a comment in support of the amendment; and
- (b) urging that we need stronger Love Offering guidelines.

CARRIED

Discussion continued on the amended motion:

- (a) The church didn't get closure with Brody, even if there is no love offering there needs to be more closure;

(b) do we need to get consent from Brody to give him a love offering;

(c) this should go back to the Board of Elders;

(d) we are voting without all the information; the people who made the decision had all the information;

Kent Maddigan made the **MOTION to AMEND the AMENDED MOTION** to add the phrase, after consultation with Brody. **SECONDED** – Teresa Jenkinson.

Discussion on the amendment:

(a) Brody has veto;

(b) what is the policy about love offerings for Pastors leaving staff (Dwayne clarified pastors get \$25.00/year of service as a gift, and a love offering);

Carried.

Discussion on the amended motion continued:

(a) urged people to trust leadership, that God is in control and that God has Brody's back.

Dwayne clarified the **FINALIZED MOTION**; That we vote, by way of a secret ballot, that after consultation with Brody Jespersen, a love offering be taken on the weekend of December 7/8 for Brody Jespersen, and that all methods of communication be followed as are typically done with an announcement such as this.

VOTE took place by ballot. **MOTION** was **DEFEATED**.

MOTION to destroy all ballots. **SECONDED** Heather Massell. **CARRIED**

10. Close of Business Meeting

Questions, answers and prayer