

SHERWOOD PARK ALLIANCE CHURCH SOCIETY

Congregational Budget Meeting

June 19, 2023

Minutes

7:00 pm Business Meeting: Sherwood Park Alliance Church, South Atrium

Open in prayer – Grace Albers

1. Call to Order – Grace Albers

2. Acknowledge New Members:

- Tracy Beeson
- Melissa Bonnell
- Juralyn Canada
- Michael Soma
- Ruby Garcia
- Pamela Klassen
- Jason Klassen
- Colin LaRocque
- Keri LaRocque
- Shawn Loewen
- Simon Marshman
- Valerie Marshman
- Kimberly Otto
- Sarah Rehill
- Shawn Rehill
- Mark Robertson
- Kayleigh Robertson
- Teresa Tessier
- Jason Tessier

3. Approve Agenda

MOTION – Moved by Sandra Janzen and seconded by Jonathan Stephenson to *approve the Agenda*. Carried .

4. Approve Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – December 5, 2022

MOTION – Moved by Rita Penner and seconded by Tom Hollinshead to *approve the December 5, 2022 minutes*.

It was noted that there was an error in the minutes: the title Pastor should be removed from Trent Forsberg, who was listed as the individual who opened in prayer. With that change being made the Approval of the Minutes was **Carried**.

5. Ministry Reports

Greg Hochhalter – Lead Pastor. Gave a quick overview of the new vision of the church to both Belong and Become, as well as explained more of what our purposes, practices and priorities will be for the next season of ministry at Sherwood Park Alliance.

Jamie Gaida – Youth Pastor. Has been encouraged by over 30 baptisms and is excited by the interaction between SCA School and Youth Ministries. Asked for prayer for the students as they continue to walk with Jesus, and as the SPAC Youth staff try to engage with F.R. Haythorne.

Heather Spronk – Kids Pastor. Is excited to see children learn to love Jesus through the church. Starting in July the grades 3-6's will engage in the services and part way through be dismissed to go to their child appropriate Bible learning. This way the kids learn to worship with their parents. Kids ministry will focus on families, equipping parents to teach their kids about Jesus.

James Choi – Small Groups Pastor. At the beginning of 2022 there were 523 people registered in a group, now there are 764 people—their goal for the year was 750, so they are happy that they were able to achieve their goal! Their demographics are more balanced now than they were previously, so they are happy about this. They are working on creating more room for all people.

Nate Peters – Chair of SCA Society. Gave a quick overview of the governance structure between the church and the school, and how all the boards relate to one another. SCA is a member of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). They have been working with ACSI on both a survey to evaluate how healthy the school is and on their Mission and Vision language. For the first time in several years Missions trips went out. This was very exciting.

Brody Jespersen – Senior Associate Pastor. Two years ago, approval was given to start the Online Ministry Enhancement project and the fundraising began. Last year the decision was made to shrink the scope of the project, and therefore the budget (from \$700K to \$400K), to make it attainable. The work has now begun: wiring has been run and is almost complete, and the church has engaged with a company called Fishhook to rebuild the website. The goal is to complete this project by end of summer. Last fall the church hired a full-time videographer, Felipe Pinheiro, and have been so thrilled with the work which he has been able to do. A special thanks to Jeremy Massel for putting in over 200+ hours of work to help ensure this project has kept moving forward. Thank you, Jeremy!

6. Ministry Budget

Glen Tjostheim – Thanks for the generous giving of the congregation. Gave an overview of the ministry budget for the 2024 Ministry Year. He noted that the fund balance is diminishing again, and although we are hoping for a smaller deficit than in the past few years it still looks like there will be a deficit. The deficit is decreasing the money that is sitting in the Ministry Fund.

MOTION – Moved by Glen Tjostheim and seconded by Gary Grycan for the membership to approve the audited 2024 Ministry Budget as presented.

Questions:

- Tom Hollinshead – expressed concern over the diminishing Ministry Fund and wondered how we are planning on teaching people about giving. Dwayne Uglem responded by saying they have increased the talking of this during weekend services and there has been discussion again about beginning to pass the plate.
- Brandon Seutter – asked about the decrease in the capital fund. Dwayne responded by saying there have been some larger expenses that have needed to be purchased this past year.
- Jeremy Massel – asked for clarity around the red/yellow/green term usage and wondered when we would move into the red. Sandra Janzen said that giving has picked up so they don't feel we are quite at the red stage yet. Dwayne said that we have three funds (Ministry, Capital and MRF), so while the Ministry fund balance is decreasing, that doesn't mean that is all the money there is.
- Tom – asked if the Renew loan had been paid off yet. Sandra said all but \$112,000 had been paid. Hopefully the remainder of the loan will be paid off by next year.
- Al Everitt – asked why we have so much money in the Compassion Fund. Jeremy Cook said that there is a difference between just giving out money and intentional partnerships. He also said that with the Church staff decreasing, it takes time to vet these things and there isn't always time for current staff to do this. Al suggested that volunteers could do this.
- Heather Massel – noted that she would like to see trends in giving over the past number of years. She also asked if the building had gone through an Engineering Assessment lately. Dwayne responded by saying that 2014 had the highest trend in giving and slowly it has gone down since then. He also said that we were learning about Engineering Studies through work that had been done at Millbourne. Engineering studies aren't cheap, so it is hard to put the money into these when repairs are needed in the building.
- Gail Bodell – asked about the jump in MRF spending. Dwayne responded by saying there was a leak in the SCE Roof that needed to be repaired and the electrical costs had jumped substantially in the last couple years.
- Shauna Forsberg – said that if giving has been decreasing since 2014 shouldn't that be alarming to us and wondered when would we start to worry. Glen Tjostheim said we would worry when we have to start asking Ministry to match giving.
- Trent Forsberg – asked what debt we were carrying. Sandra answered by citing the \$112,000 from Renew. Trent then asked what our assets were, and the answer was approx. 6M. Trent said this was good news.

After discussion, the motion *for the membership to approve the audited 2024 Ministry Budget* was Carried.

7. Close of Business Meeting

MOTION – Moved by Brandon Seutter and seconded by Brody Jespersen to *adjourn the meeting*. Carried.

8. Adjourned 9:20 pm

Questions, answers, and prayer.