

SITH Annual Meeting Minutes, Sunday, January 26, 2020

(01262020 SITH Annual Meeting Minutes)

Welcome/Call-to-Order

Alison Kothe, President, called the meeting to order at 11:23am. She briefly reviewed the agenda as shown to attendees via power point.

Council Members Shelly Horelica and Kira Baker distributed handouts which included the following:

- SITH Congregational Meeting Minutes, Sunday, November 17, 2019
- Message from Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton
- SITH 2019/2020 Finance Team Worksheet
- SITH Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019
- SITH Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, January through December 2019
- SITH "Growing Together in Christ" handout

Quorum Call, Minutes

Kathy Kilberg, Council secretary, confirmed quorum was met.

MOTION: Approve minutes from November 17, 2019, SITH Congregational Meeting

Moved: Dick Tomhave; 2nd Joel Nihlean

MOTION PASSED

2019 Recap

Our four Guiding Values in 2019 were as follows:

- Having a clear sense of mission
- Being a positive force in the community
- Helping members live out their faith in their daily lives
- Building strong, healthy relationships among members

Accomplishments - Having a clear sense of mission

- Sharing God's forgiving word through Kairos Ministry
- Sharing our gift from Shepherd of the Hills with St. John-San Juan Lutheran Church in Austin
- Launched new website that better shares our mission
- Supported San Lucas in Eagle Pass through Souper Bowl of Caring and midweek Lenten services
- "How to be a neighbor?" Sermon series and movie discussion on the film *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*
- "Dream God's Dream" Sunday School series in August
- Mission Statement Intergenerational Sunday School and sermon series in September, "Centered, Inspired, Sent"
- Youth and Family Ministry Visioning Meeting

Accomplishments – Being a positive force in the community

- Donating over 250 men's clothing items during Palm and Garment Sunday
- Meeting our neighbors and donating over \$1500 for storm relief with our first garage sale
- Hosting 25 Lake Travis middle school students for their day of service
- Handbags for Hope – donated 55 handbags
- Hosted 30 people for the Partners in Hope; Eat. Pray. Love. Meal

- Provided toiletries, cereal, peanut butter and jelly all year long to those in need through Helping Hands
- 4th Annual Christmas carols at La Cabana
- Lake Travis Independent Living – special service every other week and a December carols worship
- Spirit Blessings (formerly Blessings in a Backpack) that supports students every week with meals
- “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday
- “Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday

Accomplishments – Helping members live out their faith in their daily lives

- Writing retreat
- New Confirmation cohort
- Virtual book group
- Thursday Bible study
- “Living our Baptismal Covenant” Lenten Series
- “Faith 2 Go” boxes
- “Breaking Down Walls” prayer vigil

Accomplishments- Building strong healthy relationships among members

- First “Quiet” Christmas service
- Advent devotion cards for youth and families
- Blessing of the animals
- Hosted a wedding
- Four baptisms
- *The Mark of War* film screening
- Purchasing our new property at 2106 Bee Creek

2106 Bee Creek Update

- Travis County Fire department and fire tank permits have been approved
- Waiting for Travis County TNR (Transportation and Natural Resources) permits; main contact at TNR has been emailed every couple of weeks but no response. In process of scheduling a meeting at TNR
- Building modifications can begin but cannot start on any site work (roads, storm water, quality and detention work or parking) until permit is received.
- Current building lease expires June 30, 2020
- Workdays and site clearing at 2106 scheduled

2019 Financials

John Maniscalco, Treasurer, discussed the 2019 Abridged Financials and spoke to the power point slide of the same name. While our Total income for 2019 All Funds was \$623,723; our 2019 General Fund showed Total Income at \$214,222. While the numbers are accurate, they are misleading. The 2019 All Funds number includes the General Fund (\$214,222) and the money from our Capital campaign Building Fund (\$409,501). The P&L Budget vs. Actual, January through December, 2019 shows the numbers mentioned above. In looking solely at the 2019 General Fund, we had a deficit of \$3608 or 1.65%.

Actually, we had two accounts for year ending 2019:

- General operating fund for 3100 R.O. Drive
- Capital Building fund for 2106 Bee Creek

Many of the expenditures were due to double payments for two properties, insuring 3 buildings for \$1880 and MIF Loan Interest of \$7538.18. Both of these expenditures were unanticipated while budgeting in 2018.

The Finance team has two tiers

1. John Maniscalco as Treasurer, Candy Westermann, bookkeeper, Lynette Lawson, data input, and Dick Tomhave, historical accountant and Finance Team members.
2. SITH Church Council makes recommendations how money is spent but only after congregation approves the annual budget.

John also addressed a General Fund Offering 5-year trend which showed that as our baptized membership is growing; our general fund tithe offerings are not growing at the same rate.

2020 Budget – Alison Kothe/John Maniscalco

Alison shared 3 exciting things happening at SITH in 2020

Moving –

- We will be packing up the RO property and prepping for the new tenant
- We will also be prepping the 2106 property for occupancy, unpacking and settling in to our new home

Inviting –

- We will get to know our new neighbors
- Hope to invite new neighbors along with current members to join us in worship

Deepening –

- Deepen both our faith and our relationships with each other
- Year of transition as we enjoy the excitement of the new and loss of the old

Proposed 2020 Budget -

John Maniscalco shared that 2020 would bring about a change in SITH accounting. We will have two accounts in 2020: General Fund and Capital Building Fund.

John asked individuals to refer to the SITH 2019/2020 Finance Team Worksheet which was one of the meeting handouts. While our 2020 budget reflects a deficit of \$20,554, it is believed we need to fix the income side of the budget. SITH has had the same income projected for 2017, 2018, and 2019 but yet our costs have increased with both member and building growth.

The SITH Church Council has approved the 2020 budget, therefore, a vote can be taken from the general membership for approval.

Discussion:

Question – Ministry Expenses - line item title change from 2019 Education to 2020 Spiritual Growth and also a large increase from 2019 budget to 2020 budget, what is included in this line item? Pastor Drew explained this line item covers activities involving confirmation, deepening relationships, workshop and bringing in speakers. SITH is working with the Synod to get grant money but we budgeted this item as if no grant money would be received. John Maniscalco explained Pastor Drew stewarded well his Pastoral Continuing Education (as required by the Synod) and has carried over a balance.

MOTION: Accept the 2020 Budget as approved by the SITH Church Council
MOTION PASSED – BUDGET ACCEPTED

Pledge/Commitment Giving Campaign – John Maniscalco

- Living out our mission requires resources. As we grow this year in a new location and in our ministries, it will take all of us making a deeper commitment. Previously, SITH did not have a pledge program in place.
- Pledge Sunday will be February 16, 2020. Detailed information is contained in the SITH “Growing Together in Christ” handout.
- Pledge Sunday will be an ongoing, yearly event in the life of Spirit in the Hills. We will prepare the 3rd Sunday in October as the “official” Pledge Sunday.
 1. By doing pledges in October, we will be preparing our budget after pledges, allowing for more accurate budgeting and planning.
 2. In 2020, SITH will have two Pledge Sundays (February 16, 2020, for 2020’s budget and October 18, 2020, for 2021’s budget)

Congregational members are asked to think critically regarding their current giving and reevaluate if their giving can be increased in 2020.

A number of advances in giving have been made at SITH in the past 12 years such as automated giving and other electronic types of payment.

Other topics

Sharon French was thanked as SITH choir director for 10+ years of service. Sharon retired December 31, 2019. A retirement celebration and time of thanks for her service is being planned.

David French thanked Alison Kothe for her leadership as SITH Council President.

Pastor Drew thanked the congregation for their financial giving by exceeding the Capital Building Fund goal but also for their generous giving of time, talent and passion to our ministries.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Drew

MOTION: Adjourn

MOVED: David French, 2nd Joel Nihlean

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 12:07pm

