

Council Minutes

September 16, 2021

Present: Anne Baunach, Jonathan Baunach, Dan Ferguson, Dave Foss, Rev Chuck Harris, Rev Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Josh Luebke, Janene Nelson, Charlie Radabaugh, and Sandi Wollum

Absent: Mike McLaughlin

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

- **Devotions**

Jonathan Baunach shared a devotion from Rob Bell's "What is the Bible" book.

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Luebke / Ferguson) Motion passed.

- **Approval of Minutes: August 19, 2021**

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected. (Nelson / J Baunach). Motion passed.

- **Financial Report**

Janene gave an update on August financials. Total income was \$51,166.99. Expenses were \$47,051.89 with income more than expenses by \$4,115.10. This gives us a YTD difference of \$14,020. This is slightly low because of outstanding deposits which needed to be written off for \$170. So far this year, we have only had expenses exceed income for two months – January and March – including every month in the summer. (A Baunach / Wollum). Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **In Person Gatherings**

We are currently averaging between 50 – 60 people each month. The new communion protocol is working much better. There is limited fellowship after service, but people appear to be happy with the opportunity to fellowship.

- **Call Committee Update**

Anne shared that they have interviewed three candidates and are moving all three candidates forward at this point. The call committee continues to wrestle with the deep questions that come out of the MSP and some of the uncomfortableness with this. They hope to do the second round of interviews in the next couple of weeks.

- **Endowment Committee Member**

Dale Schossow needs to step down from the endowment committee. Shannon Spiciatti has volunteered for the committee. The executive committee is bringing this forward. Move to appoint Shannon Spiciatti to the endowment committee. (Executive Committee / A Baunach)

- **Family Survey Results**

Pastor Chuck and Josh shared the results from the Family Survey. 18 households responded to the survey. Most families are not interested in having Sunday School aged children participate in-person but AOB families are interested in attending in person. There was also interest expressed for children below the ages of the preschool age (specifically toddler family time with faith formation activities.) Pastor Susan is working on planning for Godcast for the fall. The hope is that we can sample the families again as the numbers with the pandemic improve. Pastor Chuck and Sandi will be talking about AOB possibilities.

- **Fall Plans**

Pastor Chuck talked about fall plans. Outside of worship and possibly AOB, the church is not planning for many in-person gatherings outside of worship. The middle and high schoolers are getting together at the beginning of October for a movie night and fellowship. There is also conversation about a potential modified Trunk-or-Treat.

The goal is to plan one activity a month for fellowship and service. Pastor Susan is developing Godcast which will be put on YouTube so people can watch at their leisure throughout the week. Worship planning is happening. Handbells and Chorale have returned to rehearsing.

- **Fall Stewardship**

Pastor Chuck thanked the group for feedback on the stewardship email that he has sent to the council. Our tagline for the fall will be “*Celebrating a Culture of Generosity*”. Charlie and Pastor Chuck are working on messaging for the first letter. The staff is printing envelopes. Pastor Chuck invited council members to do a video of support around the church’s ministry. He also reminded the group that they (along with the finance committee) will be making some calls at the end of November to members who have not responded. The council will be the first to receive their commitment forms with the goal of returning the statement of intent before the October council meeting. The goal is to be able to say that 100% of council members are supporting the church. Finally, he asked the council to provide feedback on whether we should go after a challenge fund for the campaign this year.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Charlie thanked all that were involved in Sandy Inman’s memorial service. It worked well going outside. It was a beautiful day with lots of help.
- Dave asked if were continuing to rent the facility to outside organizations. Chuck shared that we are currently renting to the YMCA and the two congregations. If there are people interested, Chuck shared to send it to he and Pam and they can evaluate it under COVID protocol.
- Pastor Chuck shared that he is doing a graveside service tomorrow for Pastor Wendy Taylor’s son.

- **Pastors’ Reports**

- Pastor Susan shared that she has started doing in home visits. Everyone that she is visiting is vaccinated. As well, she is following up with families with children. Pastor Susan is preparing Godcast. She is working through the stories of Genesis for October. On October 2nd, there is a movie night for households with children. She has sent postcards to all of the families. She is also meeting with the prayer shawl knitters where she is leading devotions. In October, Susan will miss the meeting as she will be in Berkley.
- Pastor Chuck submitted a written report. He mentioned that he would really like the council to take on reading a book together instead of devotions. The book is about leading when you don’t know where you are going.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Anne will reach out to Shannon Spiciatti to let her know about her appointment to the Endowment Committee.
- Pastor Chuck and Sandi will meet to talk about plans for AOB.
- The council was asked to send information to Pastor Chuck around Celebrating a Culture of Generosity.
- Pastor Chuck invited council members to do a video of support around the church’s ministry. Please let him know if you will participate.
- Please watch for the statement of intent in your email and return it before the October council meeting.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Luebke / Harris). Motion carried.

- **Lord’s Prayer**

- Pastor Chuck led the group in the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Baunach
Council Secretary