

Meetinghouse Council Minutes

November 15, 2022

7 p.m.

Attendees: Steven Anderson, Jason Phillips, Paige Didora, Kent Nack, Deborah Eckland, Jeff Lindsay, Sara Wilhelm Garbers, Tim Anderson, Wendy Senior, Shelby Wagner, and Mary Fisher, Rick Groomes, Andrew Zhao

[Council initially convened at 6:30 for review of the Child and Vulnerable Adults policy in conjunction with the Deacons]

7:07 Opened with Prayer of Relational Intent and Devotions - Shelby

7:12 October Minutes Approved

7:13 Town Hall Meeting (and related topics) - Steve

- Encouraged to be there
- Presentation - updates on our expenses
- Group discussion at table (15 min) and then representative from each table to present to group
 - Focus - reactions to the presentation, motivations for giving
 - Some clarification about the purpose and function of the Foundation
- There will be childcare
- In the Great Hall
- Encouragement is for people to think about it, pray about it, consider their giving
- Stewardship campaign is underway for January's meeting
 - Increase the understanding about our investment budget, what we have invested in with the goal of increased membership
- Question of Membership drive - could we emphasize people bringing others rather than current members giving more
- How do we present new potential members and visitors with where we are headed - a "pitch" of sorts
 - Creating a vision akin to a "business plan" for the church
- Communication overall has been very successful - letting people know what we are up to, keeping people excited

7:38 Treasurer's Report - Jason

- There will an update in tomorrow's E-news
- We had a subpar September, made up some ground in October - closed part of the gap
 - Now at 91% of giving budget
 - Also below the budget on spending
- Heading into our two biggest months

7:41 Policy Training Handbook - Deborah

- Kris and attorney Megan Anderson went over the policies with staff

- Tonight was deacons and council

7:42 Pastors' Update

- Being more intentional about how we present ourselves as a church
 - Reforming of our goals this fall
 - Example - start the neighborhood listening process to be a larger blessing to this community
 - Task force is now assembled
 - Between now and early December - will start the listening process
 - Example - meet senior pastors of other local churches
 - Have some of the same concerns as us, have tried similar steps that we have
 - Creates opportunities and is also motivating to staff
- Andrew: HS youth ministry and missions team - little free pantries
- Sara: Partnership with 40 Orchards
 - Importance of wrestling with scripture, importance of elevating the voices of women
 - Last Sunday - Stephanie and Lisa
 - Sacred Sites tour - Jim Bear Jacobs - very powerful experience
 - Questioning what is next for our community as we progress
- Christian's survey - good number of responses so far
 - Important information that can be used for the benefit of the congregation
- Mission of the Month - December
 - Opportunities for Christmas - gift drives, supply drives
- Thanksgiving service in the Hearth Room focused on gratitude and generosity.
- One service on Christmas Day, one service on New Year's Day - in the North Commons
- Emails going out on Thanksgiving morning - surprise!
- Advent: 11/27 is the first Sunday of Advent, focus on Carols
 - Lessons and Carols on the 18th
- Christmas Festival
- New Facebook page - Meetinghouse Edina
- Guelich update - Discussed that the Save the Dates are going out within a week, what to expect, dates, more info to come.

8:07 Open discussion

- Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Mayflower Compact in the North Commons
 - Barrier that has recently come into consciousness especially as it relates to our value of Welcome, Beloved and our relationship with Native American and First Nations people
 - May be a natural time for these relics to be moved when we reimagine our building and/or during the archives project
 - Potentially the the library may be a good place for these items
 - In general, the things on the wall - do they reflect who we are now?
 - Emerging generations perspective - apathy, weird, why is it there?

8:21 Recruiting People for Council and Committees

- Send ideas to Steve and Deborah - moderators will work with Nominating Committee
- Night of Next Council Meeting, Tuesday Dec 20 - in lieu of Council Meeting: dinner at the Ecklands

8:25 Motion to Adjourn