

Meetinghouse Council Minutes

January 17, 2023

7 p.m.

Attendees: Steven Anderson, Jason Phillips, Paige Didora, Kent Nack, Deborah Eckland, Jeff Lindsay, Tim Anderson, Shelby Wagner, and Mary Fisher, Andrew Zhao

7:06 Opened with Prayer of Relational Intent and Devotions - Tim

7:10 November Minutes Approved

7:10 Housing Allowance Resolutions - Steve

- Reviewed resolutions prepared by Kris
- **Motion to approve the Housing Allowance Resolutions as prepared by Kris in the Council Drive -- Motion Passes**

7:12 Treasurer's Report - Jason

- Finished December - which is traditionally a big month for us
- Budgeted giving for December was essentially \$250k, we came in at \$230k
- For the year, about \$70k behind budget, but 4% above last year
- Still behind the budget
 - But ahead of last year
- Income overall is in line with expectations
- Expenses - we are spending less than the budgeted amount
- There has been COVID relief that has now gone away
- Staff has been getting meaningful updates from Kris and Nancy

7:26 Budget - Jason

- Ted, Jeff L., Jason, and Kris met in November to discuss budget process for next year
- If we want to have a level budget year over year, we will need to increase income by \$95k because that was the COVID funding that has stopped
- Building and grounds + staff is about 75% of the budget
- Kris and Nancy are in the process of working on the budget with staff
- Likely first draft in February
- What are we comfortable presenting in terms of the deficit?
 - Pledges may help
 - Overall, people want to see that deficit come down
 - People know that it can't stay where it is indefinitely
- Jeff: Unfortunately we lost momentum from nearly three years of changes due in part to COVID
- Name Change also contributed to significant giving units not being here anymore
 - Will take time to rebuild that foundation of giving

7:45 Feedback from Town Hall Meeting

- Largely positive but some left feeling - *what now?*
 - Thus it was helpful to have the Stewardship Campaign almost immediately following
- *What do we get for an investment budget?* - That's a common refrain
- Some surprise of how quickly the Foundation money will run out
- Are there ways to get additional rental income?
 - Importantly, what would it mean for the space itself?
- Kent - Task Force
 - How we may be able to get more money from using our facilities
 - Generate ideas for what would be possible and fulfill the desires of what the church's mission is currently
 - **Motion to commission Kent to form a task force to investigate how we may generate income from the building - Motion Passes**

7:56 Stewardship Campaign - Deborah

- Rolled out a successful campaign despite being on the heels of the holiday season
- Feedback from various people has all been positive
- Hoping that it will become part of the rhythm of our community again
 - May need some foundational teaching
- We should stop apologizing for asking people to give
- Two more Sundays to go - there will be a video this Sunday
 - Pledge cards will be available this Sunday and there is a box in the office
- Has there been any feedback from the GMAT team as they have had a broader perspective on giving?
 - GMAT is no longer active. Some members are requesting to join in on Deborah's work in stewardship
- In Traditional service, discussion about bringing back passing of the cloth bags

8:11 Pastors' Update

- Andrew: EG during Advent
 - Joint Middle School HS night to decorate the Pond Room
 - HS Christmas Party
 - Young Adults - not as successful for a number of reasons
 - Christmas Party following Advents and Carols
 - New People gave positive feedback
 - Family Christmas Service seemed successful - lots of new folks, hoping that we captured some of their information
- Created lots of opportunities for people to have good experiences
- Advent
 - Lessons and Carols, Monday morning meditations, and devotionals have all gotten positive feedback
 - Christmas Eve was well-attended; Alternative service was very different from the Traditional but felt very meaningful
 - North Commons for Christmas Day and New Year's Day

- Christmas Morning - 67 people
 - New Years Day - over a hundred
 - Epiphany Sunday was a nice wind-down of Christmas season
- Online attendance has been consistent
 - Considering how we communicate with people directly online
- Ongoing assessment including annual talent reviews - review of direct reports
- Working with Senior Leadership/Pastoral staff about visioning
 - Develop some verbiage around where we are going, what an investment budget means
- Neighborhood Listening task force
 - Over 20 connections in the greater community
 - Some themes are forming
 - Related - Jeff has been meeting with other local pastors
- Lack of volunteerism - some people ready to pass to torch, need others to follow behind them

8:33 Town Hall - Jeff and everyone

- Program updates from teams would give a helpful and inspiring background on what is going on
- Will generate a discussion about what has been going on
- Brief financial update
- Table discussion
- Update on both services
- Data is important but so are stories
- Desire to make the Town Halls more intergenerational
- Poor attendance from Emerging Generations and young families though we did have childcare
- Consideration of whether Wednesday night would be a good option

8:46 Documents in the North Commons

- Will do a refresh of the North Commons in time for the Guelich Lectureship
- Those documents have been there since "The Beginning"
- Will provide an update before our February Adult Ed Meeting

8:54 Motion to Adjourn