

## **Meetinghouse Council Minutes**

**May 16, 2023**

**7 p.m.**

Attendees: Andy Ernst, Kevin Eide, Paige Didora, Ted Stark, Kent Nack, Deborah Eckland, Jeff Lindsay, Sara Wilhelm Garbers, Wendy Senior, Shelby Wagner, Rick Groomes.

7:04 Opened with Prayer of Relational Intent and Devotions - Wendy

7:10 Minutes Reviewed:

March 21

April 18

April 30

**Minutes approved**

### **7:12 Treasurer's Report - Ted**

- April - increased deficit by \$75k in April. Came in \$13k less than forecast in revenue
  - Additional expenses - building and grounds, missions payouts, accounting charges related to credit card fees, other
- Full year: Giving was \$91k below our budgeted number
- Going to end up with a balanced budget because the Foundation will cover it
- 75th anniversary and name change expenses were also covered by the Foundation
- Net deficit \$891k for the year - \$7k better than what we had budgeted

### **7:16 Annual Meeting and Related - All**

- Town Hall meetings seemed successful because there was not a lot of surprise or even commentary at the annual meeting
  - People were informed
- Smaller budget meetings led to good questions
- Visioning meeting felt very positive going into the annual meeting
- Financial information seemed clear; additional visuals could be helpful going forward
- Feels like we are consistently talking about what we don't have rather than what has been given
- Upcoming ideas (Jeff) -- Metrics: future idea is to show metrics, thinking three data points, but also engagement: attendance in both services, EG attendance, finances, and adult ed engagement
  - Still considering how to track this
  - Is there a leader in this process? Kris and Maggie are working on it now
- Participation from people who are not members
- Continued questions about what are we doing with the Foundation
- Next Town Hall is July

### **7:32 Hoist the Anchor**

- Mailings from John Seaberg - from a small group of members who want to inspire some giving above and beyond what we've planned to give

- Goal is to capture the enthusiasm of this current time and then draw less from the foundation
- \$100,000 from a pool to match
- Request to the congregation will start around June 1, big push on June 11.
- To be complimentary to the stewardship campaign

### **7:38 Ministers' Report - Jeff and Sara**

- With Christian out - Jeff has been doing Monday Morning Bible Study
- One more Adult Ed Sunday - guest speaker this week
- Continue communicating about the fall
- Still reconsidering Wednesday nights
- Time of grief for our staff members
- Tough ending of a year with losing a staff member
- Planning meetings - consideration of the entire year and being able to say "no" to some things
  - Focus marketing on more specific events
- Tomorrow night is our final Wednesday night - confirmation fundraiser
- Christian will be out until June 1 - will return part time
  - Thanks to council and to those who directly supported Guelich
- This summer - series on The Letters
- Backyard barbecues and one all-church barbecue
- Theology on Tap - next three at Bear Cave
- Faith and Justice this summer - books including Jesus and John Wayne
- Meetinghouse together May 28, July 2, August 6, Labor Day weekend - in the Courtyard, weather permitting
  - June 4 is Baccalaureate Sunday
- Working with staff to implement hour reductions to align with budget
  - Trev and Patrick will report through Sara
  - Develop more specific marketing plans and better consistency across platforms
  - Trev is taking over the bulletins
- Supporting Leah - two very difficult events at once
  - Compounded losses - personal grief and the loss of Jonah, and then the loss of her job
  - Range of emotions from everyone about the series of events

### **7:51 Organist Update - Deborah**

- One solid lead for an organist
- There are some big openings where organists are more prestigious than they are here

### **7:53 Other - All**

- Are we considering a membership drive?
  - An "invite-a-friend day"
  - Trev is working on a marketing campaign to broaden awareness in general
  - There are different ways for some people to engage one another

- Consider something easily distributable like a business card with a QR code
- We have to feel good about this place, about our community, about the impact it is having
- Bookmarks with core values in the works
- Importance of prayer for the leadership
- Financial discussions before annual meeting - comments in the minutes - metrics. Has there been a discussion of a long-range plan of how this is supposed to play out?
- Fall - real communion will be back

8:02 Welcome New Council Members

- Kevin Eide
- Heather Jo Phillips
- Ted Stark
- Andy Ernst

June 20 is next meeting; tentatively plan to take off July

8:24 Motion to Adjourn