

Council Meeting 9/16/21

Attendees (**Absent**): Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Merrill Ziemann, Jackie Hanson, Jolene Sather, Debbie Pirkel, Joy Stenhaus, Sara Ruff, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Eric Donahue, Jessica Donahue, Kim Richter, John Anderson, Mary Jo, Tracy Westman, Mark Rogosheske, Vicki Jackson, Christine Davis, Hannah Ruikka

Nomination to accept minutes from August meeting – approved

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Minutes approval 8/18/2021
- Updates from Executive Committee

Committee Reports/Updates

Pastor Reports –

- Wifi updates done today throughout the church.
- Men's Renewal Group moved to Gallaghers
- Gift policy draft – questions or comments?
 - Committee to review undesignated memorials as a question (gifts given in memory of someone or memorial in someone's honor) and determine action steps when receipt
- Lots of great opportunities for connections with open forum and youth

EXEC Committee Notes

Vision Action Team (VAT) – Sarah

Top goals determined

- Connecting to Neighborhood thru Service
- Connecting with Each Other
- Connecting by Worship Experience Enhancements
- Connecting thru Enhancing our Facilities
- Present to congregation on Sunday and request feedback

Foundation – Merrill

- Feedback received on how that is worked on managed as a part of our ministry.
- Jolene will be chairing the transition committee to review how we can ensure monies are perceived as being in action. (THANKS JOLENE!)
- ELCA would be involved in managing the fund and process to ensure how it might be best utilized and determined best practices for oversight.

Reviewed ideas on Initiating building updates for the church and contacted an architect who had previously done some design work in 2008/2009 and might kick us off in a good direction. Considerations include:

- What new ideas have been realized/offered
- Bathrooms with current gender neutral designations
- Look at items that may not have been well received at the time and how to move into a design that work into the future

Safety - Choosing to not have a mandate, rather an expectation. “Everyone expected to wear a mask!”

- Gives gentler clarifications for all to wear masks when in St Stephens.

Property Management – no information at this time

Christian Education – Christine

- Feed my Starving Children was great last night!
- Love in a Ziploc Bag again this year – looking for Thrivent Members to help source out some funds
- Many kids registered for Faith Formation and fabulous helpers teaching this year. Next Wednesday is first day back together in person and so excited to see everyone!
- Not sure if we’re sharing time with Salem this year.
- People are welcome to join in by Zoom also
- Need to connect with Fellowship Committee to determine more partnerships opportunities

Youth and Family – John A

- Hannah took kids to Valley Fair – small but might group that had a blast
- Youth – working to getting more activities (??)
- Meatball Dinner is schedule and plans in the works
- Fundraiser ideas coming
- December – possible lock in for 6 – 12th graders - check in later with safety committee on options
- Youth Music Group plans in the works

Finance – Diane

- Sent out budget summary
- YTD basis, total income is below budget by \$14K, expenses down by \$38K
- Better than budgeted deficit
- Question about an insert added to update congregation on budget status/deficit – council likes option to communicate and share important data

Stewardship - Kim - Goals presented and status of website discusses. An email will be sent to council to help with understanding and opportunity to comment, with eventual (yet prompt) goal of approval

Inviting – Mark – no meeting, lots of ideas coming up especially now that we’re together! Slides and greeting center among the many ideas in progress

Missions – no report – great response for God’s Work Our Hands

Worship and Music – Mary Jo – working to get a full calendar/list of helpers to work thru fulfillment

Fellowship – have same issues, seeking helpers – finding help but not committee members

- Planning potluck on 10/24 – please connect with Safety committee
- Game night possible on 11/18 – youth is having one maybe in October, this will be right before Thanksgiving
- Line Dancing – variety of style of music – great use of space and a talented dancer – Kathy Packer instructor - in Winter

Nominating – nothing in progress

Other business or announcements - nothing added

Next Church Council Meeting - Wednesday, 10/20/2021 at 7:15 p.m.

Close with Prayer

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