

EUMC Leadership Team
February 27, 2023 Meeting - Virtual
Meeting Minutes

Attending: John Peichel, Jill Jewell, John Fischer, Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Kaitlin Holm, Jason Fleck, Julie Newell, Tyler Cronk

Opening: Brooke opened with a meditation

Communications – Jill

Next Shorelines Deadline – May 22, 2023

Meeting Minutes shared and approved with one minor change

Trustees – John Fischer

Building report from Lynn. Builders discovered the carpet in the sanctuary did not match due to different batches. Ended up getting an entire new batch from the supplier. It will be installed in March. We will keep the old carpet and potentially use it in the basement. We are still waiting for HVAC units to be installed. Due to the carpet issues and the fact that the HVAC units are not installed, final payments to Langer will wait until the work is complete. We have a projected date of May 22, 2023 for sanctuary chairs and furniture in the front (alter, baptismal font, cross) to be delivered. He is also working on small projects such as installing blinds, staining wood and adjusting locks on doors. He asks that committee and church leaders should talk to him about storage needs so he can help arrange for item be to accessible and in designated spaces.

Playground – Fundraising is in full swing for the next few months. Team is applying for grants and making fundraising presentations. Hope to have the playground fully funded by June so we can build the park in the fall. Julie Newell is working on a bank statement for the 501c3 that is almost complete. Brewery fundraiser was a success with TV publicity on channel 5 and \$12k raised.

Steve Report – Lights in sanctuary and resurrection window done. Boiler repaired and security cameras are being installed. Lower-level carpets were cleaned.

Environmental statement suggested by Steve. Pros and cons discussed. Discussed ownership. How to implement it. Team decided to discuss this and our future environmental stewardship goals at our July strategic planning meeting.

Steve suggested hiring a service to maintain the live plants and maintenance of lobby/café area. Team discussed this idea but due to the tight budget, we are holding on this for right now.

Trustees team will go back to Steve and ask for suggestions on where to cut the budget or any projects that can be delayed like the parking lot resurfacing.

Finance – Julie and Tyler

Deficit budget in place for 2023. Team discussed sharing the financials with the congregation at a charge conference on March 19th after church with a Zoom option for those who are at home.

Suggestions to address budget deficit were: look in dedicated accounts and request permission to use those funds for operating budget, use a portion of our reserve account to reduce the deficit, and hold off on property spending while we address the situation with the congregation.

With such a significant gap, it is possible staffing cuts may be needed if we don't get additional funds from congregants.

Stewardship – Kaitlin

She has 10 or so families who we have not heard from who often do not respond. We have a \$60-\$70K gap to close in our operating budget. Kaitlin and Nate plan to meet with Brooke on Feb. 27th to make a plan to address the gap and how to approach the congregation and/or individual donors.

Ministry Teams – Jason

Lots of discussion at the Ministry Teams meeting in Feb. Good discussion. Social Justice team has so many ideas and opportunities within the 5 pillars (Anti-racism, Climate Justice, Health Care, Reconciling and Inclusion, and Democracy), they find it hard to select a focus. They may select one area and focus on it for 1-2 months within the congregation.

Community Lunch discussion – Brooke and John Peichel met separately with those interested in community lunch. We have 115 families on our community lunch list and 50-60 of those come to the ICA food shelf so many feel it is a useful ministry. Challenge is lack of volunteers to put it together each month. Group discussed having it 4 times a year or changing the meal day/time to get more helpers. Brooke feels we need to position the event so people understand it is for everyone and that it's not a charity meal. They plan to experiment with a few options in the coming months. We will have a lunch connected with the Easter Egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter and then may try a Sunday afternoon or evening meal.

Discussion topics – John Peichel

Policy for building use we discussed in January will be put in place shortly. He is open for additional feedback as it is rolled out.

Brooke Report –

Many successes reported including the wonderful dedication services, a successful playground fundraiser, and new members who joined recently. Addressing the budget deficit will be her top priority in addition to recruiting for the leadership team and planning for Holy Week and summer ministries. She is also forming a group of congregants who may be interested in preaching periodically.

Nominations update – Julie Newell has agreed to be our new Leadership chair. Jim Stromberg will be a Trustees representative. Other invites have been extended. In the future, our team will need to self recruit to fill the open positions.

She will be out May 21, June 18, and July 9.

Next Leadership Team Meeting will be Mon, March 20th. Jill is unavailable so we plan to either record the meeting or find a replacement to take minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Jewell