

Excelsior United Methodist Church  
Leadership Team  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2023

Attending: Jill Jewell, John Peichel, Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Kaitlin Holm, Bill Lester, John Fischer, Jim Stromberg, Jim Lee, Kaitlin Holm, Julie Newell, Phil Pulitzer, Jason Fleck, Tyler Cronk

**Opening** – Brooke H-S

Brooke opened with a reading from a prayer book.

**Communications** – Jill

Reviewed Feb minutes and discussed that Shorelines will be due May 22, 2023

Welcomed new members: Bill Lester, Jim Stromberg, and Jennifer Brady Johnson (absent). Went around the table and shared a hobby that people may not know about you.

**Ministry Teams** – Jason Fleck

Jason reported the Social Justice team is deciding to focus on particular topics for a period of months with the congregation. (Jan - March is Health Care, April – June will be Climate Justice, and Sept – Nov. will be Social Justice)

They have a Social Justice musical Sunday planned for April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The anti-racism team was pleased with the participation in the all church book read with 65 people reading the book. New people have expressed interest in helping these efforts in the future.

There is also plans for a Social Justice film festival for 2024

Community Lunch – April lunch will be in conjunction with the Easter Egg hunt. Team wants to try a 10 AM brunch on the first Saturdays of May and June to see if they can get additional help with food and serving. We have a few dedicated volunteers who'd like to see this ministry continue.

Music ministry – Children's choir is struggling this spring with participation numbers. Hope to have enough to sing on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Group discussed the possibility of doing this only in the fall (since numbers were better then) and then the Christmas pageant.

**Trustees** – John Fischer

Lynn Hughes – Lynn reported that the chairs and the other sanctuary furniture should arrive by the end of April. Carpet in the sanctuary will be replaced in April. No word on when the HVAC units will arrive.

There is a small group who will start meeting with Steve a number of times per week to get knowledge on the workings of the church facility in preparation for his July 31<sup>st</sup> retirement. Steve is also working to compile documentation on warrantee info, repair contact info, and clean up some areas so supplies can be organized at transition time.

Trustees also plan to talk to Steve about his thoughts on long term major projects he anticipates so we can plan for these in future budgets.

Roof discussion – Steve reports the roof will need to be replaced soon. Leadership team discussed the possibility of getting someone out to look at it for an estimate on replacement cost or possible hail damage.

ICA requested the use of the basement youth room (center room) for customer shopping since they are getting more customers. Team discussed the need for a new outlet in that room for their freezer/fridge units and also new paint. Team discussed the need for a 5 year facility plan for the basement space so we don't continue to remodel and move programs from room to room every few years.

His House discussion – Brooke shared that Martha from His House suggested we may be able to make money by renting out our annex. His House is applying for grants to pursue this option. Brooke will keep us updated on this topic.

Custodial/Lawn/Shoveling Services. – Team discussed these services and that we need to continue to monitor quality and cost.

**Finance** – Tyler shared 2023 budget numbers that did not include parking lot or the roof. He also shared year to date numbers and reflected that monthly income is not consistent month to month so it is difficult to compare it to budgeted numbers.

**Stewardship** – Kaitlin shared that she and Nate Holm plan to monitor giving throughout the year to see if we need to follow up with families who are not giving as expected. In May they will engage with the 25-30 top financial supporters to discuss growing operating giving in 2024. Goal is to increase giving in 2024 to help with our deficit numbers.

Team also discussed the need for a 5 or 10 year budget so we can plan for a new roof, parking lot, etc.

**Playground** – Draft of a playground Lease Agreement 2023 – 2033 was presented to the team. Purpose of the agreement is to clarify the terms of the 10 year lease of the property by EUMC to the city. It was reviewed by Tom Judd who made a few suggested changes. The park 501c3 would have its own insurance policy

Vote was requested to allow the Trustees to sign the agreement. Phil moved for the vote, Tyler seconded. Discussion continued to include questions about liability for accidents at the park, impact on our church insurance, and whether we need permission from the conference to sign the agreement. Eventually, John P decided to table to motion until April until these items can be clarified.

#### **Brooke Report –**

Brooke reported that our church will be participating in a new summer camping experience for grades 6-9 called Summer Festival. It's held at Gustavus Adolphus in July. Children who participate only pay ½ the tuition due to a church camp scholarship fund.

Other exciting news is she will be applying for a grant for a 2 year - Spiritual Director who comes to the church once per month during the school year. She's also working with a group of 5 congregants in a sermon writing group who will help with services in May and then periodically throughout the year.

She is continuing to prepare for Holy Week and worship themes for summer and fall including a summer service on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Excelsior Commons.

She reported that she has completed her term on the executive team for the Board of Ordained Ministry. She'll continue on the board. She will also continue to recruit for the 2 open positions on the EUMC Leadership Team.

Next Meetings:

Tues, April 25

Tues, May 23

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Jewell