

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of January 6, 2022 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Elizabeth Tawil, Dan Haas, Anne Haas, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Jackie Britton, Owens Walker, Roxanne Kuhn, Mike Campbell, Pastor Jen Karsner, and Scott Karsner.

Open in Prayer

Nancy Beers opened us in prayer.

Minutes

We approved the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting.

Finance Report

- Nancy reported that we ended 2021 with an operating surplus of \$50,000 thanks to generous donations from our members and the forgiveness of the PPP loan. **Nancy requested that we transfer \$40,000 of the surplus to replenish the capital improvement fund. (The transfer will bring it to a balance of \$58,000.) Council voted to approve the transfer.**
- Nancy presented the 2022 budget and requested approval. (Details of the 2022 budget are included in the January 5 email to the finance committee.) The budget includes a 3% bonus for employees but does not include salary increases. The 2022 budget shows a projected operating shortfall of \$14,000. Given our comfortable unrestricted cash position, \$149,000 after the allocation of \$40,000 to the capital improvement fund, Nancy is comfortable with the projected shortfall. She noted that we had projected operating shortfalls for 2019 and 2020 and ended up both years with an operating surplus. If we do in fact, end up with an operating shortfall for 2022, we can reassess in 2023. She suggested doing a mid-year review in June to see where we stand and to determine if we can provide cost of living increases for our staff for their new contract year which begins July 1.

The council approved the 2022 budget with the mid-year review of staff salaries.

Endowment Fund Distribution

The council voted to recommend approval of the first distribution from the endowment fund. The distribution will be \$4,000 scholarship to Asbury member Kris Neale who is attending seminary. Mike Campbell, chair of the Endowment Fund will request approval from the endowment committee members. (Update: The distribution was approved by the endowment committee.)

Memorial Fund Distribution

We discussed several options for spending the memorial fund (balance of \$12,000). **We voted and approved an allocation of up to \$2,500 for a hearing assist system that will serve members with hearing loss and an allocation of \$500 for testing of omnidirectional microphones for the choir.**

Trustees

- Dan reported on the Eagle Scout project to redo the fire pit on the side of the church, add benches, and remove invasive shrubs and replace them with native plants. Dan has talked to Jack Hogsten (the fire pit is just outside his back fence) and Jack is fine with the proposal.
- Dan reported that the Methodist Church and the BSA have made a settlement and that he plans to renew the relationships with the scout troop.
- Snow removal – It was reported that not all of the sidewalk was cleared after the recent snow. Dan will follow up.

SPRC

- Working on the Pastor Evaluation.
- Cindy will make a decision in March as to whether she wants the permanent admin position.

Preschool

- The preschool completed a salary study and has set new salary levels. The minimum wage increased to \$12.50 on January 1.

Youth Ministry

- GGSM has become a Reconciling Community with the Reconciling Ministries Network. They've had very positive feedback from most everyone they've heard from. They've heard from some other Reconciling Ministries welcoming us as well.
- They had the Christmas Party and Caroling.
- Made lunches in November for Arundel House of Hope
- Be the Bridge Planned out the Winter/Spring 2022 calendar. January Social Principal, February – Mass Incarceration, March – guest speaker from Broadneck Baptist, April – Visit Museum Tour: Banneker Douglass Museum, June – Participate in Annapolis Juneteenth Celebration COVID

Updating COVID Guidelines

Our COVID guidelines need review and updating. Pastor Jen will look at our guidelines and propose an update.

In Person Church Services

We discussed the low attendance (especially at 8:00 AM) and the issues we have had finding a sufficient number of liturgists and ushers. We discussed the possibility of temporarily reducing to one service at 11:00. Jen will get the attendance numbers and Jackie and Ann will put together a list of the people who typically attend the 8:00 service. They will make a few phone calls to solicit feedback and will plan a gathering to discuss after one of the 8:00 services.

Publication of Asbury History

Alberta Stornetta, church historian, has printed 150 copies of the church history to donate to the church. We will give one to each family and reserve some for the future. The books are in transit but have not yet arrived so we table a discussion until the books arrive.

Opportunity to Join with Gloria Dei to Welcome an Afghanistan Refugee Family

Gloria Dei has applied to sponsor a refugee family through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, (LIRS) in 2022 and they have invited the churches in the Broadneck Ministerium to join them. Jackie Britton followed up with Gloria Dei to find out details. Sponsorship requires financial support as well as volunteer support for a year to mentor the family and to help them set up house, connect with community resources, etc. Gloria Dei has committed \$2,000 and St. Andrews by the Bay Christ Our Anchor have committed to contribute volunteers. **The Council approved a contribution of \$2,000 for financial support and to look at opportunities to provide volunteers. The \$2,000 will come from the \$5,000 donation from the will of Flo Randall.** Jackie will notify Gloria Dei.

Anti-Racist Statement

Pastor Jen has reviewed the statement provisionally approved by church council and is fine with it. She will be meeting with the "Be the Bridge" Leadership team to discuss next steps. Rollout will likely occur in February.

Next Meeting

January 27th.

Pastor Jen closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody