

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of October 29, 2021 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Council members Elizabeth Tawil, Dan Haas, Anne Haas, Alberta Stornetta, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Corinne Van Hoven, and Owens Walker. Scott Karsner and Roxanne Kuhn attended. Kris Neale, and Gina Parker also attended for the discussion of the Anti-Racism statement.

Open in Prayer

Nancy Beers opened us in prayer.

Minutes

We approved the minutes from the September 23, 2021 meeting.

Discussion and Vote on Anti-Racism Value Statement

We discussed the statement.

Historical Reflection Under historical reflection, Kris Neale suggested that we add a statement that Asbury was a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. (This was the Methodist denomination resulting from the 19th-century split over the issue of slavery in the Methodist Episcopal Church). Nancy Beers questioned the use of the term White Supremacy in the sentence “We recognize that as a predominately white congregation we ~~have~~ **historically** benefited from white supremacy, white privilege, and participation in systems of inequality and inequity.” because of the association of the term with terrorist groups. We had a lengthy discussion about this and decided to keep the language replacing the word “have” with historically and to add a footnote with the definition from ‘Be the Bridge’ and Merriam Webster.

Actionable Items For item d under the 3rd bullet, we edited to replace the word reparations with the word amends. “Investigate/Find Native American ancestors and with the intent to investigate amends.” We discussed the points raised by members and the fact that actions might include things such as recognition of the tribe and specific donations rather than exclusively monetary reparations.

Vote and Rollout Council decided that rollout should await Pastor Jen’s return. The Council voted to approve the document as a final draft
(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aAM6XGXaWcAv7knyDsQ2rmyBCrT74K9TPp-zeZHj8kw/edit>) allowing Pastor Jen to ask questions and provide comments prior to rollout.

Trustees

- Dan held discussions with the Scout Troop 382 and explained that the church’s rationale for only extending the charter to 12/31/21 was to put pressure on the national organization to provide insurance coverage for the liability of chartering organizations. They understood our position

and they will begin to investigate alternatives if the issue is not resolved by 12/31/21. Dan is going have Trustees look at the possibility of allowing the scouts to continue to use our facility under a room use agreement even if they end up having to find another chartering organization.

- Church cleanup is on Saturday.
- Janet and Chris Kerchner are replacing the damaged drywall in the choir room.
- Dan will sign the paperwork to use the Hartford for our Worker's Compensation policy beginning 11/20/2021. We are making the change to have a consistent underwriter and to have a more accurate premium billing since the billing is integrated with our payroll system, ADP.

Youth Ministry

- Youth had Youth Sunday Oct 24 and the youth did a great job.
- Youth have their Lock in Friday night and are excited about it.
- GGSM Reconciling Ministry Discernment Process update: We have received feedback and as was outlined in our [September 15 letter](#), the leadership team is now reviewing the feedback and will be meeting to determine next steps.

Preschool

Nancy Beers provided a report. Enrollment is 114 for the preschool and 68 for clubhouse. There currently have two teaching positions and a part-time clerical position that have not been filled. They have been filling in with current staff and substitutes until the positions can be filled. They recently had a Chick-fil-A fundraiser and they are doing a Franklin Toys fundraiser so, if anyone is buying toys from Franklin, please mention the preschool. They had an unannounced inspection this week and got a rating of above standard. Two minor issues noted are being resolved.

Finance Report

- Nancy reported the finances are sound and that if the favorable giving variance continues we should end the year with a surplus of about \$15,000. She would like to see any surplus added to the capital improvement fund.
- Nancy noted that we had \$500 left in the mission budget and that she offered the money to the Youth to cover supplies for making 50 lunches for Arundel House of Hope clients at the Red Roof Inn. Scott has already scheduled a date in November for that. If there is any money left over, she will offer it to any other groups that would like to provide a lunch.
- We have collected over 60 bags of clothes for the Hope for All Clothing Drive and they are scheduled to pick them up from us on November 5.

Miscellaneous

Roxanne asked about potential flooding in the basement of the sanctuary since the clothing is stored on the floor in the library. Dan explained that all previous sources of flooding have been addressed and should not present a risk.

Roxanne said she would like to clean out the old youth room (in basement of the sanctuary) to be used for projects like the clothing drive. She asked whether the pew cushions could be moved back to the sanctuary but, because it is COVID related, Elizabeth put it off to a future meeting. She asked about the old red doors and Scott said that he had saved them for a potential project but agreed that they can be disposed of.

Nancy Beers closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody