

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of May 26, 2022 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Pastor Jen Karsner, Dan Haas, Nancy Cody, Owens Walker, Elizabeth Tawil, Jackie Britton, Scott Karsner

Pastor Jen opened the meeting in prayer.

Minutes

We approved the minutes from the April 28, 2022 meeting.

Pastor Report

Jen reported that she got favorable comments on the Service of Lament and noted that Evan Young had watched the service and had asked if he could share the liturgy.

Trustees

- The toilet repair (women's toilet in the basement of the Sanctuary) is still pending.
- We had our tri-annual drainage inspection and there are issues that need to be addressed. We got an extension until June 18. Trustees have determined what needs to be done and will make the repairs.
- Teresa Lynch will replace Pat Cody for Thursday night lockup.
- Fire Inspection was done.
- They are getting estimates on the parking lot work.
- Rose bushes were cut back near the entrance to the church basement.

SPRC

- New admin Pauline Markward was hired at \$18 per hour.
- They need to fill the Music Director position. They might combine the position with the preschool music position to provide a position with more hours.
- They plan to re-open the nursery with two paid positions for the 11:00 service. They will first offer the position to Beth Vester.

Finance Report

YTD 4/30/22, we had an operating surplus of \$3,900 vs a projected operating surplus of \$6,700.

Giving - Giving as of 4/30/2022 was short of budget by \$6,100. Our giving budget this year was based on last year actual giving. Last year's giving included larger one-time gifts from several infrequent givers who didn't pledge this year and we don't have a good feel as whether they will give at the same level this year. We will review giving at the mid-year review to see if budget adjustments (salary increases) can be accommodated.

Our budget for the year 2022 projected an operating deficit of \$15,000 assuming that giving remained at the 2021 level. *Because we had a comfortable level of unrestricted reserves at year end - \$188,000 (enough to cover 7 months of operating expenses), we felt that we could absorb a \$15,000 deficit if giving did not increase in 2022.* Because we have a comfortable cushion, and we don't know what the infrequent givers will give, Nancy doesn't feel that any budget expense reductions will be necessary at the present time.

Nancy reported that Teresa and Darlene were working on the audit and were expected to have it complete by this weekend. **Update – The audit was completed and submitted to the conference.**

April 30 giving statements were sent out in May along with a letter from Pastor Jen.

We made mission distributions to SPAN and My Brother's Pantry. Nancy and Ellyn Campbell attended the SPAN board meeting and Nancy reported that she made Asbury's pledge for the next year for \$2,500, an amount equal to the amount given last year. Nancy is going to become a volunteer Client Interviewer for SPAN and will pass along any useful tips that she picks up from her training to our administrator who is the first point of contact for requests for aid from Asbury's Good Samaritan Fund.

Youth Ministry

- Sunday evening meetings have wrapped up.
- Youth are attending the Pride Parade on June 4. All church members are invited.
- June 5 is Senior Sunday.
- Impact Week deadline is June 15.
- Next year they will have a student leadership team rather than peer ministers.
- Be the Bridge is planning for next year and it will include the PBS special on the Black Church. Other topics may include health and mass incarnation.

Preschool

May 27 is the last day of preschool and they have graduation ceremonies planned. All staff are returning except for the music teacher.

Racial Reconciling Collaborative (RCC)

Scott reported that he attended the May 12 meeting where they discussed the banner. Three common themes came out of the discussion.

- "We are called to..."
- "Conversation Builds Community"
- "Love is our Bridge"

Different groups are developing the concepts for presentation/discussion at the June 9 meeting.

Calvary Youth Group Use of Fellowship Hall

We discussed and agreed that Calvary could use the fellowship hall/kitchen on Thursday June 30 for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Jackie Britton mentioned that the kitchen really needed to be cleaned up before they use it. She and a group had cleaned it during the winter but it hasn't been kept clean. People use things and don't put them away. Pastor Jen said that she will ask for helpers to clean the kitchen and that she will mention it to Natasha since the preschool staff use the kitchen.

Afghan Refugee Support

We discussed the family of 7 that Gloria Dei is helping. A church in Columbia is helping them find housing but they will need financial help with rent. Council approved donating \$2,000 of the funds from Flo Randal's will to Gloria Dei to help with rental assistance to the family. Gloria Dei will need to raise additional funds and we may consider donating the remaining \$3,000 from Flo's will as matching funds once we see what type of fundraising they propose.

Church History Book

Owens is reading the book and when he finishes, he will set up a time to do a video interview with Alberta. He will have more time after the semester is over.

Next Meeting

June 23 at 7:30.

Scott closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody