

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of June 17, 2021 Meeting

8:00 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Council members Elizabeth Tawil, Dan Haas, Anne Haas, Alberta Stornetta, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Karen Beer, Owens Walker, and Jen Karsner, and Scott Karsner.

Open in Prayer

Dan Haas opened us in prayer.

Minutes

We approved the minutes from the May 27, 2021 meeting with one correction. Pastor Jen's sabbatical begins September 13.

Finance Report

Nancy reported that we have an operating surplus and that giving is \$17,000 ahead of budget. The Finance committee will do a mid-year review after June 30 with possible revisions to the budget.

Giving statements will be sent out this month. *(Update: They were sent 6/21/21.)*

Roxanne Kuhn has started as our new bookkeeper and all is going well.

Shingie is working on our annual audit which is due June 30. *(Update: The audit was completed and submitted on 6/22/21. Shingie did not have any recommendations for improvement.)*

The PPP loan funds will cover payroll through the July 2 pay date and we will apply for forgiveness in July.

SPRC

A hiring committee was formed for the Preschool Director position that included representatives from the preschool board, teachers, SPRC, and parents of students. Interviews have been conducted and the hiring committee has made a recommendation. References are being checked and a decision should be made soon. Owens thanked all of the members for their hard work.

Terri Dotterer has resigned as Children's Ministry Coordinator and SPRC has decided not to fill that position since it was put in place to handle children's ministry during the pandemic.

Sherika, our office administrator, is moving out of state and will not be renewing her contract. The church administrator job has been posted on Indeed.

We plan to hire nursery staff when we reopen the nursery.

Pastor Jen will be on leave between June 21 and July 10.

Preschool

Karen Beer reported that a committee of the preschool board is working on updating their bylaws and the board will vote on the updates at the next board meeting.

The preschool board voted to spend \$2,000 of the \$47,000 COVID grant on bonuses for the cleaning staff. The preschool will write a check to the church and Jen will talk to Kirk and let him know that we would like it split evenly between himself and Dwayne.

Regarding staffing, most current teachers are coming back but there are a lot of positions that will need to be filled before the preschool/clubhouse starts in September. They need lead teachers, aides, aftercare staff, and office staff.

Karen needs Elizabeth Tawil to sign employment agreements for preschool staff.

Karen provided preschool financial reports to Nancy Cody and she will look at them and start sharing a summary with the Church Council each month.

Coverage during Sabbatical for Pastor Jen

Pastor Jen has talked with the DS and is recommending the employment of a retired elder to cover Sunday services, pastoral care, and office support during her sabbatical. She envisions 15 hours a week at a rate of \$400 per week or \$4,800 for the 12 weeks. The DS has provided some recommendations of elders we should consider asking. SPRC will review the plan and funding sources and will make a recommendation to Church Council at the next meeting. Regarding funding, \$1,500 can be covered through the pastor sabbatical fund, \$1,500 can be covered with the \$1,500 budget for the Impact Director that will not be spent this year since Scott is taking on Impact Week as part of his job, and \$1,000 can be covered through cost savings by not replacing the children's ministry coordinator. The SPRC budget would only have to be increased by \$800 to cover the remaining balance and Nancy Cody feels comfortable with that increase considering that giving is ahead of budget.

Budget Review

At the next meeting, Nancy Cody will provide projections through year-end and we will review the budget for possible mid-year increases including salary increases of 2.5% for all staff.

Trustee Report

Dan reported that the A/C has been replaced in the tech room and that the A/C in the wiggle room will also be replaced. Regarding the sink hole, there is a possibility that the work will be done pro bono. The rails on the handicapped ramp have been replaced. The circuit breaker in the Sanctuary blew but they are just going to monitor it for now to see if it happens again.

Youth Ministry

Scott reported that the summer schedule includes a leadership retreat July 23-24 and Impact Week August 16-20 (10 youth signed up). He asked whether or not we would update our COVID guidelines in light of Governor Hogan's recent announcements and if we are changing guidelines he would like to give parents of youth registered for Impact Week as much notice as possible.

Guidelines for In-Person Meetings

We discussed the issue and decided to revisit our guidelines at our next Council meeting. In the meantime, we will survey ministry leaders to get their input. We also revised current guidelines to allow use of the Fellowship Hall, Hathorne Room, and Clubhouse Room during the week in the summer when the preschool is not using the Family Life Center.

Nominations

Jen shared the list proposed by the Nominations Committee and no one had an objection to any of the nominees. Church Council approved the nominations.

Missions Committee

We discussed the two options listed below and agreed that we wanted to pursue option 2.

1. If the sole/primary purpose of the missions committee would be to make financial commitments and distribute funds to ministries we want to support, perhaps the council or finance could navigate those responsibilities.
2. If we want a more robust mission committee that plans some local service projects, organizes mission trips, etc., in addition to the financial aspect, then we could ask nominations to work on populating a missions committee.

Jen mentioned that we would need to be outline what we expect the committee to accomplish before we can ask for volunteers to staff the committee. Jen suggested that the UMC Guidelines for the Missions Committee would be a good place to start. Here is a [LINK](#) to those guidelines. We discussed the desire to include social justice issues in the committee scope.

The nominations committee will ask two or three people to work on defining the mission committee objective and then will work on staffing the committee. Jen asked us to email her any suggestions for members to work on defining the committee objective.

Anti-Racism

We will discuss at our next meeting. Scott provided this [LINK](#) for consolidated feedback on the anti-racism statement and this [LINK](#) for the updated value statement incorporating feedback.

Next Meetings

We will not meet on our regular days in July and August. We will meet July 29 at 7:30 and August 17 at 7:30.

Pastor Jen closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody