

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of July 23, 2020 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Elizabeth Tawil, Karen Beer, Dan Haas, Katie Dold, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Vickie Whitley, Scott Karsner, and Pastor Jen Karsner

Elizabeth read our Council mission. Our Council mission is *to envision, plan, implement, and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church.* [Book of Discipline, 252]

Open in Prayer – Nancy Beers opened us in prayer.

Regarding the BWC request that we consider becoming an anti-racist church, “Discipleship Council offers opportunity to sign, to rise, and become an anti-racist church.”

"As people of God, we lament and confess the sin of racism and we commit to work without ceasing, led by the Spirit of God, to resist and deconstruct racism wherever it exists," proclaims the Commitment to Become an Anti-racist Church issued by the Discipleship Council of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.”

At the June Council Meeting, we committed to reading and discussing the book *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi to gain information to guide us in our decision. At this meeting we started the discussion of the book. Because of other pressing agenda items, we limited the discussion to 30 minutes. The discussion will be continued at our next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Minutes from prior meeting - Elizabeth Tawil distributed the minutes in advance of the meeting. Scott Karsner made a motion that we approve the minutes as shared. Nancy Cody seconded. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report – will incorporate into the other business items.

Current Business

Finance – Finances are good. Nancy will start the forgiveness application for the PPP loan in August when the bank makes the application available unless the government decides to automatically forgive all loans under \$150,000.

Trustees

- They fixed a problem with the dehumidifier in the church library.
- An Eagle Scout project will repair the fence on the lower playground.
- Dan is glad to report that Tom Britton is cancer free and attended the last trustee meeting. He is also starting to pick up trustee projects.
- They are investigating the leak in the heat exchanger this weekend to determine if it is freeze damage or corrosion. They will make a determination whether the heat exchanger needs to be repaired or replaced (if it is corrosion, it needs to be replaced.) To replace it will cost \$5,000 but

it is an old model and would need to be replaced again when we replace other system parts. Given the age of the other system components, it may make more sense to replace the whole system (air handler, A/C units on roof, and hot water heat exchanger). Dan will get a price for replacement and talk to Skip Trimble to see what grants or rebates we could get to lower the cost.

- Chris Kerchner is going to look at the belfry to assess damage.
- Richards Trees sent us bills covering the last couple of years. Nancy Cody will look at QuickBooks to see what we have paid them 2017 forward and provide that information to Dan.

SPRC

- Arranged for a health care plan for Vickie Whitley to begin August 1.
- Since we have no concrete plans for reopening, we did not renew the contracts for our Sunday nursery caregivers, Beth Vester and Kiara Wyatt.

Youth Ministries

- Adult and student leaders are currently doing a racism study.
- The parking lot party on the 19th went well.
- Typically the youth put out a calendar for a full school year at a time. However, we plan to supply a calendar two months at a time as our response to COVID unfolds.

Food Pantry Update

- Nancy Beers has talked with Love Anne Arundel County Coalition, an organization of churches that have banded together to meet immediate needs. The group currently supports 4 pop up pantries. A pop up pantry is a short term food distribution site where existing pantries are overwhelmed. The organization partners with Feed Anne Arundel and the MD Food Bank to provide food for the events. Nancy volunteered at the Georgetown East Elementary School pantry to see how it works. They served about 100 families on the day she served.
- Nancy was contacted by Dan Tuttle at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church about the possibility of Asbury joining St. Margaret's and other churches for a local pop-up pantry on the Broadneck peninsula. They will first determine the need for a pop up pantry on the Broadneck peninsula and Nancy will report back at the next Council meeting. Nancy reported that she had several Asbury members who had indicated a willingness to help with a pantry.

COVID-19

- Last Sunday was the first live stream from the sanctuary and it went well. A big thanks to Dan Haas and Owens Walker for their hard work getting this project up and running. We are still waiting on a rack system to organize the components and there are a couple of additional equipment items we discovered that we needed as we started to use it.

- **Preschool Update –**
 - Since Anne Arundel County schools will be virtual in September there will be no Clubhouse school age child care. There were 64 students registered for Clubhouse.
 - The preschool can open if it meets certain specified requirements outlined in the Preschool Safety Protocol document distributed by Elizabeth in her email. There would be a maximum of 15 in each room including teachers.
 - Although some of the teachers have decided not to come back, since we won't be running Clubhouse, we should have enough teachers to staff the preschool. Vickie does not anticipate having to lay off any of the teachers who want to come back.
 - Vickie would like to open because she feels that, if we don't, we will lose some staff as well as some families that will find other schools. She feels that we can meet the safety requirements for opening.
 - We discussed the need to keep classes separate and the issues that would be raised by the 10 children signed up for extended care who would be in a preschool class part day and the extended care part day. Vickie is going to look at options for minimizing the risk related to class mixing for those children.
 - We talked about cleaning requirements and the problem that would be created if more than one class used a classroom in a day. Vickie is going to take a closer look to see if she can meet the requirement of one class in a room for a day.
 - Since we need a timely decision on the preschool, we decided to meet again on Monday July 27 at 6:30 to review what Vickie has come up with and make a decision about the preschool opening.

Closing Prayer - Elizabeth closed us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm