

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of September 23, 2021 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Council members Elizabeth Tawil, Dan Haas, Anne Haas, Alberta Stornetta, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Jackie Britton, and Owens Walker. Natasha Flannigan, Scott Karsner, and Ellyn Campbell also attended for part of the meeting.

Open in Prayer

Minutes

We approved the minutes from the August 17, 2021 meeting.

Trustee Report

- Dan signed an insurance contract for building insurance with Church Mutual. We will have the same coverage that we had with the prior carrier and the new policy has a small cost savings. We will be billed quarterly.
- Dan gave us an update on repairs to address the choir room ceiling collapse. It was caused by a backup in the A/C line. He plans to install a water detector that will shut the system down if the problem happens again.
- Dan reports that a fall cleanup day is scheduled for October 30.
- The fellowship hall roof recoating is complete. It should last us for a couple of years.
- Dan reported on the Boy Scout issue. As background, the BSA national organization recently declared bankruptcy as a result of lawsuits alleging sexual misconduct. The BSA national organization had promised to have insurance coverage to cover the liability of sponsors (Asbury is a sponsor). As a result of the bankruptcy reorganization, the BSA national organization determined that they will no longer provide insurance for the liability of sponsors. If we continue to sponsor a troop, we have potential liability.

United Methodist churches sponsor almost one third of the scout troops and the United Methodist Church wants to put pressure on the BSA national organization to provide the insurance coverage. To bring pressure, the UMC has advised us to choose one of two options. The first option is to tell the local troop that we will only extend their charter until 12-31-2021. The second option is to not renew the charter of the local troop but instead have them sign a facility usage contract.

Trustees discussed the options and voted to go with option 1 since it minimizes the impact on the local troop. Council agreed with the Trustee decision.

Finance Report

- Nancy reported that we have an operating surplus and that giving is \$23,000 ahead of budget. If the favorable giving variance holds, she anticipates that we may end the year with a surplus of around \$14,000. The capital improvement fund was reduced to \$21,000 with the HVAC replacement so she is hoping we may be able to use some of that surplus to replenish the capital improvement fund. Dan Haas, trustee chair, agrees with the need to replenish the capital improvement fund to cover necessary maintenance of our facilities.
- Nancy gave an update on the annual children's clothing giveaway. We will not be holding the clothing giveaway. We asked for a volunteer to take over the clothing giveaway and no one stepped forward. Also, given the COVID restrictions in place to protect the preschool children, we would not have a space available to sort and store the clothing. Ellyn Campbell, who had been responsible for the clothing giveaway, and Nancy started looking for alternatives and recommend partnering with Hope for All in Glen Burnie. Nancy and Ellyn visited Hope for All and determined that the partnership would be a good fit. Hope for All provides clothing for over 1,000 school children each year and also provides clothing for adults and families in need. Clients are referred to Hope for All by school counselors, social workers, and partner organizations including Arundel House of Hope, the Light House Shelter, and partner churches. We will do our normal clothing collection during the month of October and Ellyn and Nancy will take the donations to Hope for All. Nancy also recommended that we become a partner church and the recommendation was approved. As a partner church, we can refer individuals in need to Hope for All.
- We discussed how to spend the 2021 mission budget and we voted and approved disbursing \$2,000 to My Brother's Pantry, \$2,500 to SPAN, \$1,000 to Nan & Miguel (Give Ye Them to Eat), \$1,000 to Hope for All, and \$3,000 as matching funds for Asbury Gives.
- We discussed the Asbury Gives Catalog and, at Scott's suggestion, decided to add GiGi's Playhouse and Bello Macre this year. The youth did work with both organizations during Impact Week. Nancy will give the list to Cindy who will be preparing the catalog this year.

Preschool

- Natasha reported that there were no changes to COVID Guidelines. She reported that two students had tested positive and as a result, following guidelines, two of the morning classes will be shut down until October 4.
- Natasha reported on options for HEPA air purifiers for pre-school classroom plus other rooms frequently used by groups. After some discussion of layered mitigation strategies, we decided to table the discussion of HEPA purifiers until we have more scientific information to support their use.

- Jackie Britton reported that the preschool budget, projecting net income of \$44,000, was approved by the preschool board. Council voted and approved the budget.

SPRC

Owens reported that Vicky Starnes is here and that Hite Spencer will cover one Sunday when she is not available and the Youth will cover the other Sunday when she is not available.

Cindy Edson (from the temp agency) has started as church administrator. We have been impressed with her and if she feels it is a good fit, we hope to be able to hire her after Jen's sabbatical.

Youth Ministry

Scott reported on the Glowing Back to School Sunday night event for God's Garage. For our September service opportunity the youth made Breast Cancer Kits through Pinked Perspective and thanked the congregation for the donations! Regarding the Reconciling Ministry Discernment process, on September 15 he has sent a letter to the youth, their parents/guardians, and the adult leaders and is soliciting feedback through October 15 and at which point the God's Garage Leadership Team will review and determine next steps.

Road to Bethlehem

We discussed this and decided to ask Cindy to put out a notice looking for someone to take the lead for Asbury. That person would line up volunteers from Asbury and coordinate with the other churches. A quick response will be needed so that we can get back to the other churches as to whether we would like to participate again this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody