

Asbury United Methodist Church Council

Minutes of September 24, 2020 Meeting

7:30 PM via Zoom

In Attendance: Elizabeth Tawil, Karen Beer, Dan Haas, Anne Haas, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Owens Walker, Scott Karsner, and Pastor Jen Karsner

Open in Prayer – Scott opened us in prayer.

Minutes

We approved the minutes of the 9-3-2020 meeting.

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.”

We discussed what it would mean to be an anti-racist church and what it would look like. We discussed some ideas including the need to commit to learning (self-examination and improvement) and to work against racism. Jen suggested that our upcoming intergenerational book study of *Stamped* is a good start and might be what it looks like to start becoming an anti-racist church. We decided it would be a good idea if Council participated in the study. Elizabeth Tawil, Nancy Cody, Nancy Beers, Jen Karsner, and Scott Karsner all committed to being part of one of the *Stamped* study. Dan and Ann Haas agreed to read the book.

Dan suggested that we would need to explain to the congregation what we mean by an “anti-racist church” and said that he would start a Google document to capture ideas of how we should define it. Jen suggested a book that she read [Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism](#).

Pastor's Report

Jen will cover as we discuss topics.

Finance Report

- Good news – we sent the \$3,000 to BEP for the pop-up pantry and \$2,000 of that money came from the Good Samaritan fund. Since we sent the money, we have received over \$1,400 in additional donations to the Good Samaritan fund.

- August 31 giving statements were sent.
- Nancy read a study that said that the under 45 age group prefers to give to specific causes and it has been born out recently when some of our members who don't typically give to the church gave generous donations to the Underwear fund and the Good Samaritan Fund. She established a new fund for God's Garage thinking that some of the parents of youth who participate that are not part of our church might like to make a specific donation to support God's Garage.
- Nancy reported that the charge conference report for Finance contains a question asking if our bank deposits are within the FDIC insurance limit (\$250,000). Since the church and the preschool share a federal tax ID our accounts have to be combined for FDIC insurance purposes. The church and the preschool each have about \$250,000 at BB&T which puts us over the limit. We decided to have the church and preschool each keep \$125,000 at BB&T in their operating accounts and transfer the excess to another bank. Preschool transferred their excess to TD bank. Nancy made a motion that we transfer the church excess to a Church Reserve account at the United Methodist Credit Union. That account pays 1% interest and allows one withdrawal per quarter. Dan seconded the motion and it was approved.
- Nancy reported that she is not yet sure how she will do the budgeting process for 2021 in light of all of the uncertainties. Jen reported that she will do a stewardship sermon series in November.

Trustee Report

- Dan reported that the Eagle Scout fence repair project will be done in October.
- Dan reported a sinkhole in the woods behind the cemetery and stated that he had fenced it off so that no one would get hurt. They haven't yet determined the cause or a cost to repair.
- Jeff Burkhart is developing a landscape master plan for the church.
- Dan has gotten two of the three estimates for the HVAC system replacement. The lowest cost is \$32,000 from Sines. He hasn't yet asked Skip Trimble to look at the proposals to see what rebates or grants are available. Jen reported that the preschool had set aside some money towards the HVAC replacement. Karen asked about the classroom units and Dan reported that when we do the reserve study, we will look at the classroom units that are not covered in this HVAC replacement.

SPRC

Owens reported that we haven't yet hired the Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Youth Ministry

- Scott reported that they will be having an outdoor movie night on 9/27 and a yard work mission project on October 25 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.
- He reported that Kristal Neale and Corrine Van Hoven would be leading the Monday night book study and Mike Zaleski and Morgan Garner would be leading the Tuesday night book study.

Broadneck EP Food Pantry Update

Nancy Beers reported that they were glad to get our \$3,000 donation and that they would be making the purchases of the rice, beans, and juice using our donation. She will follow up to see about the SignUp Genius.

Clothing Giveaway

Jen talked to Ellyn Campbell and it is going well. They have started sorting clothing in the Sanctuary.

Winter Relief

Jen reported that she had talked to Pat Cody and that Arundel House of Hope has grants to house the clients at Red Roof Inn until the end of the year. We won't be hosting this year but Pat will find out what needs they have and we will see if we have any volunteers to fill those needs. The Christmas Eve offering will go to Arundel House of Hope.

Charge Conference

Reports need to be delivered to Sherika by September 29 unless you are going to upload them to Arena yourself, in which case they are need to be loaded by October 1. Our charge conference is scheduled for October 20.

Preschool

Karen Beer reported that the preschool is operating at a loss due to the limited number of classes and the child/teacher ratio required. If no additional classes are added, they project that they will have depleted their reserve funds (\$57,000) by the end of the school year. The biggest loser is extended care due to the low enrollment and the two teacher requirement. They may have to discontinue some time slots that only have a few children to save money.

On the bright side, the preschool is going to apply for an Anne Arundel County Childcare Provider Support Grant. That \$3,000,000 grant program provides grants of up to \$50,000 in operating funding to childcare centers that have seen a significant decrease in enrollment due to the COVID -19 pandemic. The grants are designed to provide a bridge so that providers can remain in business and be available to serve families when the economy fully reopens.

Small groups update/building use agreement

Jen had distributed the building use agreement document that contained the guidelines we agreed to at the last meeting. Rooms that can be used any day include Asbury Room, Little Asbury Room, and the Clubhouse Room. Rooms that can be used on the weekends only include the Fellowship Hall and the Hathorne Room.

Pastor Jen will not distribute until we have marked out all rooms and determined capacity. Scott has marked out the Asbury Room and the Hathorne room. Nancy will put a request for a volunteer to do the other rooms in the Weekly Update. And, Dan will tape off excess chairs in the rooms so that they won't be used.

What should our community outreach look like as COVID continues to impact our community? MANY hurting people. How do we prioritize?

We briefly discussed this and decided that we would really like to be able to do something to help parents stressed out by online school and trying to work from home. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

We discussed the Christmas Giving Catalog and said we would bring suggestions to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held October 15.

Jen closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cody