

Minutes of ALB Meeting
February 9, 2021

Attendees

ALB: Kathy Schluter, Dick Barnes, Sean Gaffney, Julie Whitney, Sharon Garrett, John Fruncek, Brady Henderson

Staff: Pastor Matt, Pastor Andrew, Pastor Janet, Pam, Nell, Dan, Anne

Guests: Laurie Jeffery, CJ Neville, Mary Paull, Craig Walker, Cynthia Boock, Beth Groble

Opening Prayer - John opened the meeting with prayer

Approval of Minutes - Kathy

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Devotion - Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt will be preaching about transfiguration and asked us to describe our “mountain top experiences”. Examples were sunrises - a beautiful surprise, sunrise on Masada, baptism in the Jordan River, serendipitous moments, Camp Lucerne, reading Psalms at the cell where Jesus was held, happening upon a cross during a difficult time, feeling God’s presence during a crisis. Pastor Matt noted that it can impede our spiritual progress by not focusing on the world and seeing God.

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Matt

Pastor Andrew introduced himself to the Board. Pastor Andrew expressed excitement about returning to Wisconsin and serving at the church and with Pastor Matt. He sees great opportunity for revitalizing the children and youth program and appreciates the strong team already in place. Pastor Janet expressed relief that her surgeries are over and joy at returning to her home church.

Lenten Plans - Pastor Matt

The church has mailed a Lenten packet to each member of the congregation with a letter from Pastor Matt, a devotional, family resources, and a schedule of study options.

Resumption of In-person Worship

- All

Sharon advised that COVID infections are declining and vaccinations are increasing. However, the staff is unwilling to hold in-person worship yet due to concern about a possible spike in infections and uncertainty about COVID variants.

Technology Report - John and Anne Eversfield

Anne described the issues with the website that caused it to shut down recently. It shut down for a few days in December because the certification expired and for a week in January because of a change in the tooling. The shutdown revealed a larger issue about who is in charge of the

website and what Steve Brook's role is. Currently, the Tech Team and primarily John are responsible for the website. Steve has never been involved with the website and focuses on big issues related to desktop computing.

There were four take-aways from the discussion: we need

- 1 - to reinvent and grow the Tech Team
- 2 - to clearly define Steve's role
- 3 - to provide website support
- 4 - to provide livestream support

Racial Diversity Ministry - Sharon Sharon requested a \$3000 grant from the Future Fund to cover the cost of the Racism in America Speaker Series - \$2300 for Reggie Jackson and \$700 for honorariums for other speakers. The speaker series, as the first community event of the Racial Diversity Team, satisfies the purpose of the Future Fund to provide seed money for new initiatives. On a motion by Dick, seconded by Julie, the Board approved the grant.

Outside Alliances - Kathy

Kathy proposed a process to approve affiliations with or memberships in outside organizations. After discussion, on a motion by Brady, seconded by Sharon, the ALB adopted the following process: 1 - recommendations must be submitted to and approved by ALB; 2 - the senior pastor must approve the request; 3 - ALB can elect to send "significant" requests to a charge conference to be approved by 3/5 of those in attendance. Requests may be deemed "significant" because of the purpose of the group, the resources, participation or other requirements of membership or other factors. The ALB will work with the requesting group to develop a timeline and communication strategy for the charge conference, if congregational approval is required.

Request by Church & Society to Join MICAH - Cynthia Boock and Beth Groble

On behalf of Church & Society, Cynthia requested approval of church membership in MICAH (Milwaukee Inner-City Churches Allied for Hope) and the addition of a line item in the operating budget for Justice Ministry. Beth described MICAH as a faith-based social justice organization with 39 church members. MICAH has six focus areas, including education, criminal justice, healthcare, transportation, employment and lead, and provides training in community organizing. Members must pay annual membership dues of \$1200, participate on the Board, Religious Leaders Caucus and on task forces. John asked if MICAH was political organization. Beth said that MICAH is a social justice organization that works with state and local governments to advocate for legislative change. Some of its social justice positions may be considered political by some, however. On a motion by Kathy, seconded by Brady, the Board voted unanimously to approve membership subject to congregational approval and to add a line item in the budget for Justice Ministry. Kathy and Sharon will work with Cynthia and Beth to develop a communication strategy for the May 2021 Charge Conference.

Staff Parish Relations Report - Dick

SPRT has proposed salary increases for staff in FY 2021-22 that will be considered in Closed Session.

Trustees - Kathy

816 Rehab - Trustees are planning to repair the brickwork, chimney and fireplace. This will restore a working fireplace to 816. The expected cost will be \$25,000.

Dumpsters - the dumpster is currently located off the Danbury walkway by the street but will be permanently located in a corral behind 806 off the Danbury walkway.

Church Roof Update - Trustees will schedule a call with the Church's consultant, Ron Dorszynski, and the roofing consultant to resolve concerns with the raised fasteners, walkway pads and organ damage.

Rezoning - Kathy will file a petition with the Village to zone 816 and 820 for residential and church use.

Capital Projects - repairing the floor at the Danbury entrance was added to Capital Projects.

New Chair - Craig Walker has agreed to chair Trustees.

Power Shutdown - We Energies has notified the church that it will shut off electrical power to the neighborhood from 11 pm on Friday, February 21 until 5:30 am on Saturday, February 22 so it can install electric power lines to the WiRED Properties development. We will need to bring in Butters-Fetting at our expense to restart the electric power for the church, possibly grid by grid.

Financial Update - Sean and Pam

FY 2020-21 Budget - there was a \$4,300 shortfall in January leaving a surplus for the fiscal year of \$45,233.32. Pledge and non-pledge income rose to 61% and 84% of the amounts projected, respectively, and expenses were 55% of the total. Pledge and non-pledge income are closer to the actual totals in the 2019-20 FY than the conservative estimates for this year. Actual expenses are also lower than projected because the projected expenses include about \$32,000 of salaries of employees who were furloughed.

Capital Campaign Funds - the Capital Campaign officially closed at year end. We have received \$920,290 of the total pledged of \$932,470. The Capital Account balance is \$119,201. There is \$103,268 in the Future Fund.

Roof Fund - the current balance is \$63,485.

Properties Capital Fund - the current balance is \$227,163.

PPP Proceeds - the proceeds will be allocated based on payroll - \$96,594.50 to the Church, \$76,259 to Carpenter Shop and \$10,774 to Tree of Life. ALB will determine how the church's portion should be allocated.

FY 2021-22 Budget - prep will begin in March.

PPP 2 - Pam

Upon further review, Pam concluded that the church qualifies for a second PPP loan because revenue during at least one quarter of 2020 was 25% lower than that quarter in 2019. She had submitted an application for the same amount as the first PPP loan.

Craig Walker

The Board unanimously approved Craig's application for Board membership. Craig was also appointed as Chair of Trustees.

Dick closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting of the ALB will be held on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.