

Minutes of ALB Meeting
January 12, 2021

Attendees

ALB: Kathy Schluter, Dick Barnes, Sean Gaffney, Julie Whitney, Sharon Garrett, John Fruncek, Brady Henderson
Staff: Pastor Matt, Pam, Nell, Dan
Guests: Laurie Jeffery, CJ Neville, Mary Paull

Opening Prayer - Sharon opened the meeting with prayer

Approval of Minutes - Kathy

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Devotion - Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt noted that the combined amount in the Powerball and MegaMillions lotteries is now \$B and asked whether money is a blessing or a curse. John referenced a book, Your Money or Your Life, that refers to money as the life energy we use to acquire it and asks how much life energy we want to expend to gain money and status. Brady referenced the scripture, "where your treasure is, your heart will be also". Treasure is something we search for - is it the world or heaven? Pastor Matt concluded that we need to worship the right thing and be good stewards of what we have.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Matt

Pastor Andrew and his family are settling in and love the house. Pastor Andrew will preach on Sunday, January 17.

Lenten planning is beginning and Matt hopes we can resume in-person worship by then.

We asked about the 'hate mail' Matt said he received in response to his email about the Capitol riot. Matt clarified that it was from just one person. However, it brought attention to the diverse politics of the congregation.

Resumption of In-person Worship

- All

We discussed when in-person worship might resume. The Bishop had recommended closing in-person worship through the New Year and has not provided further direction. Matt preferred in-person worship but the staff was not comfortable with the risk to staff and congregation in light of some positive tests among staff. Some expressed concern about resuming in-person worship given the continuing high level of positive tests and the new more virulent strain of COVID and wanted clear benchmarks met before resuming in-person worship. Others noted that our safety protocols had worked in the past and people at risk would self-select out. Mary was concerned that we did not have enough volunteers to clean the sanctuary and implement the protocols in the Narthex. We will monitor and make a decision closer to Lent on February 17.

Christmas and 2021 - Pastor Matt

Christmas services appeared to be well received and the Christmas offering was higher than in prior years.

Technology Report - John

Of the purchases approved at the December meeting, the two over-the-ear microphone, the piano condenser microphone, and an additional livestream camera have been purchased. The only remaining item is the conversion of the Wesley Room into a virtual conferencing/classroom space.

Missions - Kathy

Mission giving is up significantly this year and the food collection is continuing. Fifteen youth made sandwiches on Sunday and WOW collected kitchen items for UMCS apartments on Sunday, January 10.

Racial Diversity Ministry - Sharon The MLK Interfaith Devotional will be shown at 7 pm on January 17. It will feature several members of our church.

The Speaker Series on Racism will begin on January 28 with a presentation by Reggie Jackson. Registration is required for both.

Outside Alliances - Kathy

Kathy suggested that the church develop a process to approve affiliations with or memberships in outside organizations. One possibility would be for recommendations to be submitted to and vetted at ALB and approved by the congregation at a Charge Conference. For groups that might be controversial, any procedure should involve ample notice and information to avoid some of the negative feelings caused by the Welcoming Statement. Kathy will look into the policies and procedures used by other churches.

Staff Parish Relations Report - Dick

Christy's last day was Sunday, January 10. The collection of a love offering will continue for another week or so.

SPRT will meet in January 25-26. Pastor Matt plans to conduct reviews of staff.

Trustees - Dick

816 Rehab - the 816 rehab is complete with a few outstanding items that are on order or must wait until Spring. One concern is the 816 driveway that abuts the 810 construction site. There is a 12-18" drop off from the driveway into the construction site which can make backing cars up challenging. Since the 816 driveway also serves as the Church Walk, it can also create a hazard for church members using the Church Walk. We will secure a permit from the Village to allow the Jones to park on the street for the duration of the 810 construction.

Church Roof Update - the Church has notified its consultant, Ron Dorszynski, Crandall Roofing and Butters-Fetting of its concerns and is waiting for their reply.

Capital Projects - The Trustees approved the following capital projects for the 2020-21 fiscal year:

- Replace the fixtures and counter in the ladies rest room off Narthex - TBD
- Tuck point both parsonages - \$10K each
- Replace four windows in 820 E. Glen - \$4-5K
- Complete miscellaneous items in the 816 E. Glen rehab
- Replace damaged ceiling tiles and possibly the carpet in the Youth Room - \$8K insurance claim
- Construct a concrete holding area for the dumpsters, most likely behind 806 E. Glen - TBD
- Complete roof project - \$375,000
- Install lateral sewer line to 820 E. Glen - complete - \$8.8K
- Remove Norway Maple in 816 front yard and remove 41" Oak and treat other trees in playground - \$1,850 for Norway Maple

A committee will be formed to develop a plan for renovating the sanctuary (new floor and seating) and the Narthex (new carpet).

Stop Sign Ordinance Hearing - Kathy

The Village Board adopted an ordinance at its meeting on Monday, January 6 to install stop signs on the corners of Danbury Rd at the intersection with Glen Avenue. The neighbors supported the ordinance.

Financial Update - Sean and Pam

FY 2020-21 Budget - the December financials show a surplus of \$35,131.91 after payment of the apportionment balance - a significant improvement from the deficit of \$12,834 in November. Another donation of about \$10,000 is also expected. Pledge and non-pledge income rose to 52% and 72% of the total, respectively, and expenses are 48% of the total. Pledge and non-pledge income are \$28,000 below last year at this time.

Christmas Offering - the church collected \$15,640 for the Christmas offering - \$5,640 more than the budgeted amount.

Capital Funds - the Capital Campaign is officially closed. We have received \$919,300 of the total pledged of \$932,470. The Capital Account balance is \$118,541. The roof fund shows a balance of \$63,485 after payment of invoices totaling \$260,427.

There is \$102,937 in the Future Fund reflecting about \$10,000 of payments for technology upgrades.

Properties Capital Fund - there is \$234,313 in the fund. None of the costs of rehabbing 816 are reflected.

2020 Apportionment - Pam paid the remaining balance of the 2020 apportionment.

PPP Funds and COVID Relief Act - Pam

Our request for forgiveness of our PPP loan was approved. ALB must now determine how to allocate the funds of \$183,000. The new COVID Relief Act provides for another PPP program but loans are available only if earnings in one quarter of 2020 are 25% lower than they were in same quarter of 2019. Pam does not believe our church will qualify for the new program.

MLK Day Proclamation - Kathy

Kathy proposed adoption of an MLK Day Proclamation proposed by Bay Bridge to recognize MLK Day. After discussion, the proposal was tabled.

Closed Session

Brady closed the meeting with prayer.

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

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Schluter