

Christ United Methodist Church
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY
January 16, 2025

ATTENDING: Clara Fitzgerald, Kevin Fitzgerald, Lee Klinkenberg, Phil Lindberg, Fred Mueller, Kevin Swanson, Natalie Swirdovich, Rev. Wells

OPENING: Lee opened with prayer. Prayers for Lee as he completes recovering from COVID!

Note about Zoom: There is an old, ongoing electronic meeting invitation that should probably be deleted; some people see it as starting at 7am.

PASTORAL REPORT (Rev. Angela):

- Our new Council of Ministries meeting is up and running! The first meeting went well.
- Natalie has organized the first quarterly Finance Committee meeting for January 29th to set goals and discuss online giving and legacy giving.
- The responses from the Time, Talent and Treasure forms are being finished up.
- The recent Children's Service was well received; our next service will be shared with UCC.
- We are planning a "State of the Church" meeting to be held on March 2nd after worship service. This needs to be led by lay leadership; the goal is effective messaging of where we are as a congregation.
- The UU's have contracted with Navigate 360 (a company that focuses on organization safety issues) to supply virtual training for faith communities to respond to violent incidents. CUMC is also invited to this event. Schedule info yet to come. Great opportunity for us. Discussion about: Who should participate? How should we use this training?
- Office move: Coming the end of this month. This would be an ideal time to invest in a new computer for Lisa. We have a \$1K donation for church tech (specific to web site development); we didn't go that path with the web site. We'd like to reach out to the donor to ensure using the funds this way are in line with the original vision for their donation. Rev. Angela and Fred will discuss this off-line. We agreed to head this direction; no official board vote required because the money already exists.
- Rev. Angela will plan Hispanic Heritage Month activities for mid-October (these were pushed off last year due to illness).

SPRC REPORT (Kevin S.):

- The committee has 3 new members, who are replacing veteran members, so we recognize we're losing a lot of experience. First meeting went well and was mostly an introduction and review of upcoming activities for the year for the committee and trying to avoid last-minute rush efforts.
- Upcoming reviews for Ching Ju and Lisa Lindberg. We discussed how to approach potential staff raises for them.
- Discussion about how inclement weather schedule changes are communicated; we believe this issue is well in hand.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Kevin F.):

- We reviewed the current budget spreadsheet; Kevin and Fred ensured that their numbers are aligning.
- Delvin is allowing the gift card stock to be purchased down as he prepares to phase out of that role.
- Discussions about several budget items, to make sure everyone understands the current status of several areas, including the web site entry, membership entry and noting some recent piano rental income.

- Good news: We had projected a deficit but are currently running a small surplus. Some discussion about what the current numbers say about potential future budget concerns.
- We want to get to a place where we're projecting an even budget.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (Fred F.):

- For last year, we had 33 paid-off pledges, out of 38. We are at 96.6% of collected money. Some people who paid off their pledges also paid extra.
- Fred has sent letters to those who haven't completed their pledges.
- We budgeted \$4500 for "Other Gifts" and received \$14,272.75.
- For 2025, we have 33 adult pledges, 2 youth pledges (a new category this year), for \$98095. Some discussion about upcoming stewardship efforts, and the role of Olaf the Stewardship Viking.
- Talking about moving up stewardship by a couple of weeks - starting in mid-October, ending in mid-November, to help other end-of-year schedules.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (N. Swirdovich):

- We are planning 4 quarterly meetings this year (which has been a challenge in recent years); the first will be on the 29th of January.
- Looking at goals and where this rejuvenated committee wants to go.
- Want to look at on-line giving and legacy giving. Bot of these will need some research and looking at all the issues that arise.
- Hoping to stabilize our income; try to smooth out erratic giving.

COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES (Rev. Angela and P. Lindberg, but mostly Angela):

- Given that we just had the first intro meeting, we focused on looking at big picture, larger-scale issues, trying to avoid reviewing the nitty-gritty of each ministry area.
- Started some planning for the season of Lent. Looking at having a "Shrove Friday" for First Friday, as well as book study and congregations Lenten practices.
The group is off to a good start. Note that we're meeting monthly as we get started - and plan to transition to quarterly meetings.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

- Talked about shifting this meeting's day and time; looks like the current schedule isn't perfect but is difficult to change - and works well enough for most members.
- How should we handle our budget deficit: After lots of discussion and bouncing lots of ideas around: We want to use March 2nd for an after-church "State of the Church" meeting to raise this issue appropriately. Lee will write something up for the newsletter. We need to communicate to the Council of Ministries. Need to make sure this doesn't sound scary; need to be sensitive to how this sounds to visitors and well as members. Lee to include advertising for the "State of the Church" meeting in the Wednesday email leading up to March 2nd.
- Quick item: How is the new credit card working? Amazon works fine; for some other on-line transactions, the card is being rejected, and we're not sure why. This will be a topic for the Financial Committee.

Rev. Angela closed in prayer at 8:10pm. Next meeting is scheduled for February 20th.

Minutes Recorded by Phil Lindberg