

Christ United Methodist Church  
Council minutes  
July 11, 2023

Present were Scott Gillespie, Hollie Kessler, Pastor Bruce Mowery, Judi Austin, Paula Thoennes, Joan Banning, Nick Fetchina, Carol Yarian, Marlen Slagel, Jack Dwiggins, Sylvia Vaughn, Jake and Emily Mayer, Mike and Lisa Hilsabeck, Dana Blanchard, Brian Hall, April Headdy, Becky Crabb and Jill Studer.

Chairperson Scott Gillespie called the meeting to order, thanked us for coming and asked Pastor Bruce to open with prayer. He then asked those present to share how we saw God at work. A successful VBS was celebrated. Pastor Bruce commented that Brianna's Hope was continuing to serve those who attended and 2 of the men had been in church on Sunday.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as emailed.

Jack Dwiggins reported that in the discipleship series a course on Hospitality will be offered in September to be led by Pastor Kurt and Paula Thoennes. He then referred to a handout which each person had that introduced a new mission possibility, a Caregiver support group. A small committee, led by Jack and Sylvia Vaughn, have been working on guidelines for this group which would be for those individuals who are in a caregiver role. This would be a confidential group, sharing and learning from each other as well as learning about resources available to them. An individual had given a donation to support any needs initially. It would be open initially to people from our church, but others could join when they learn of the group. This group will be overseen by Carol Yarian as a part of Care Ministries.

Judi Austin reported for Staff Parish that the staff is currently covering church business in the absence of Pastor Kurt, who is on vacation. They will be working on the budget for 2024.

Nick Fetchina reported for Finance. He stated that budget forms have been passed out and are due mid-August. Plans are being made for Stewardship Sunday on September 24. He asked Jake to prepare some short videos to be used as Stewardship Sunday approaches. Pledge cards will be available ahead of the date. Nick then presented information recently received from our mortgage holder, IN Savings and Loan, that our interest rate on the mortgage would be increasing from 4.75% to 8.75%. As a result, the mortgage monthly payment would increase to \$6829/month, an increase of \$1837/month over the budgeted amount. Nick indicated that due to the employee retention credit of \$544,000 received from a government tax credit program, this money could be used for a significant payment towards our mortgage. He will present to IN Savings and Loan the request that, if we make that payment, the company would recalculate the amortization schedule to a 20 year mortgage based on the new balance. Jack Dwiggins suggested that we could investigate a campaign to pay off the mortgage in the near future.

Carol Yarian reported for the areas she oversees. For small groups, Pastor Kurt will be leading the Women of Faith Bible Study from mid-August through September. Regarding the Faith Builders SS class, Becky Crabb will be leading the group in a 6 week study on prayer, starting in

September. This is a part of the Breakthrough Prayer Ministries. The Generation What group will be updating their sessions in the fall. Regarding attendance, typical of summertime, attendance is down, but there were 4 new people last Sunday. Our outreach ministries are working well, and Kid's Klost continues to serve many families and Carol is working to find additional sources for clothing. The Feed the Kids program for Edgelea will be a part of a pilot program through Food Finders to add some more kid friendly food in the back packs. On August 17 there will be an AED/CPR class open to the congregation and a blood drive is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>. Also, plans have begun for Jubilee Christmas.

Mike Hilsabeck reported for the trustees. Recently accepted bids for repairs/resealing/stripping the parking lot and replacing the roof on the Education Wing. A bid for the roof repair from Knox has been accepted and this will be done in late August. Superior Sealcoating will begin repair on the parking lot the week of August 14. This will be done on one parking lot at a time to avoid parking problems for ongoing activities. The islands in the west parking lot have been cleared and replaced with landscape rock, improving the appearance of the lot. The prayer garden has been cared for by Kristin Shelley and Heidi Brewer.

Brian Hall reported for Early Learning. The staff handbook has been updated and shared with the EL staff. Use of the remaining grant money will be completed by the end of Sept. Currently there are a few openings in the 3-4 class for half day preschool in the fall. Summer Camp is going well, and the counselors have reported that it is a much better working environment this year as compared to years past.

Emily Mayer reported for the Children's Ministry. Vacation Bible School with 160 children had gone well. Jake Mayer worked with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade group, and they went off-site to do fun activities and outreach work. She is planning a training for the volunteers in the program. She stated that Early Learning did their own training, as the rules for the childcare are affected by state guidelines.

Jake Mayer reported that the Youth are still on summer break, although some are involved in helping for events at the church. As school opening approaches, activities will be determined.

With Pastor Kurt on vacation, there was no report.

No old or new business was presented.

Becky Crabb, prayer coordinator, closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Banning, Secretary