

Christ United Methodist Church
Council minutes
November 14, 2023

Present were: Pastor Kurt Freeman, Scott Gillespie, Pastor Bruce Mowery, Nick Fetchina, Jake and Emily Mayer, Hollie Kessler, Joan Banning, Marlen Slagel, Jack Dwiggins, Brian Hall, Audra High, Paula Thoennes, Claude Sawyer, Carol Yarian, and Judy Austin.

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.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as emailed.

Jack Dwiggins reported for Discipleship. The class on Hospitality has just finished and another area (worship, generosity) will be scheduled soon. Curriculum needs to be completed for this.

Judy Austin reported for Staff Parish. They have completed the assessment for Pastor Kurt and discussed it with him. The request for the staff love gift for Christmas will be in the bulletin soon.

Nick Fetchina reported for Finance. He indicated that both expenses and income are under budget. The budget for 2024 has been completed with a significant decrease from 2023. The total budget for 2024 is \$614,177. It included the refinancing of the mortgage, (saving \$35,484) but includes raises for the staff and budgeting of \$4000 for a new ministry. The Finance committee recommended acceptance of the budget and the recommendation passed.

Discussion about meetings in January resulted in the decision to have Zoom meetings for both Finance Committee and Church Council.

Carol Yarian reported for the areas she oversees. She commented that following the meaningful service for families who have lost members from suicide, the Suicide support mission team would be meeting regularly starting in January. They will focus on giving families the opportunity to share experiences and bringing in speakers to address mental health issues. It will be opened only to church members at first but could be opened to others later. A new adult Advent study will be led by Pastor Bruce using the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree story as the basis for this 3-week study. Pastor Kurt's sermon series during this time will also be related. Attendance last Sunday was 199 in second service and 94 in first service. Carol praised the congregation for being willing volunteers as a small group had prepared the candles for our Christmas Eve services which will be at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. In addition, all of the "gifts wanted" cards were taken from the trees last Sunday. The Clothes Klostet has been very busy, often with many people waiting. Community members have been the source of many items of clothing as Hollie commented that they receive contributions most days of the week from people outside of our church. The Klostet workers then sort, wash when needed, and hang all of this clothing, a hard job for these volunteers.

First Impressions is welcoming new visitors each week. Visitors are checking our website to gain information. Some Early Learning families have visited recently. The Charge Conference for our church and others in the area met at Christ Church. Following the meal and meeting, many of the attendees from other churches stayed to listen to the session of Briana's Hope. Carol commented that some of the Briana's Hope members have expressed interest in helping with Jubilee Christmas.

There was no report from the Trustees. Hollie commented that there were no major issues at this time, just small repairs being done, including the automatic doors. Snow removal has been arranged for the winter.

Brian Hall reported for Early Learning. Their budget has been completed and tuition increases were approved by the Board. A state review has been completed and the program passed the inspection. The EL program has been functioning for 11 months with 3 co-directors and is running smoothly. Finding and keeping employees is still an issue. Audra High indicated that there is still an ongoing conversation, and complaints about the changes in leadership for the program. This is being addressed by Pastor Kurt and the Board. Pastor Kurt commented that they are being consistent in their response to this situation, emphasizing that we are providing a quality program and keeping children safe.

Emily Mayer reported for the Children's ministry. Trunk or Treat was attended by 1200 people; 640 of these were children. Positive comments were made by attendees about the organization of the event. Businesses as well as Early Learning people helped make the program work well. The Children's Christmas pageant will be on December 10 at the second service. A Parent's Night Out is being planned for a Saturday at the end of January. The Youth will assist in this event. She commented that she is updating the Safe Sanctuary program and making sure our policies are all up to date and all volunteers trained. Attendance at the middle service is low, with not many adults participating in a Sunday School option. Attendance at the second service is very good.

Jake reported for Worship. Music for first service may be affected as the choir director, Vicki Croy has health issues. He has talked with members of the band about helping in some manner. Band members have been very flexible to fill in where needed. During worship, the tech booth team is trying to be more aware of comments being made from those on Zoom and share some of those comments. Jake also said that a new computer (he referred to it as the main work horse) is now ready for use.

Pastor Kurt reported that he was pleased with the Charge Conference event, in that some attendees from other churches did mingle with the Brianna's Hope members. The Scouts have been very helpful in helping in a variety of jobs at the church. Regarding the hospitality of our church, he shared that a visitor had been impressed with the welcoming attitude of our congregation and felt that our church really cared about them. He also commented that our District Superintendent was very pleased with our church.

There was no old or new business.

Pastor Kurt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Banning, Secretary