

Church Council Meeting
via ZOOM
August 17, 2021

Present: Margaret Baldwin, Daniel Russo, Edward Eggleston, Jack Allman, Christina Hellums, Kathy Sheibley
nonvoting – Cara Rothe, Eric Elnes, Nan Wagner
Absent: Phil Owen

Margaret offered an opening reflection on choosing love and gave the meeting guideline of I will find my voice, be courageous and speak up.

Eric's Report

Eric is back from a productive break with plenty of thinking time. He brought back a fluidity of ideas which he will solidify at the next council meeting.

With the help of Avena and Grant, the first rehearsal of the mystical meditation service will be on Saturday, August 21.

The lining up of high caliber jazz musicians for the Art&Soul zoom service is in progress.

Once started the service format will be tweaked as needed. It is hoped that the services will be a setup for your day as a worshipful experience.

Jack Allman will assist with the services.

September 5 will be used as an initial test for services to come.

The zoom service will move to Fellowship Hall this coming Sunday, August 22.

Cara's Report

It was the first day Trevor's first day without Andre looking over his shoulder. Trevor and Jake are getting to know each other and building a productive working relationship.

Cara is working to build a healthy attitude and high morale within the new staff, and with the hope that they will embrace and reflect the values and goals of the Church.

Portland Piano International, once a former tenant, will be returning to rent 3 offices at \$15,000 annual rent.

Phase 1 expenses have begun [but the associated expenses are not reflected in the current P&L. Cara will be creating an additional page to show those expenses for now, but expenses in 2022 will be integrated into the budget. Most of the income for Phase 1 was approved by congregational vote on June 27, 2021, although some was already in the budget] note from Moderator.

Cara asked about the need for more closure of the Church and a discussion ensued which culminated in a motion

Church Covid Policy

Masks are now required in the Church with signs posted.

Few people are currently using the Church.

Eric suggested he would hold regular office hours but meet with people outside perhaps as walks together. Concern was expressed for our staff to be taken care of so as not to be exposed – especially those with children at home.

Motion: Edward moved that the building be closed to the public. Members are allowed to use the building but only if masked and without staff being present. Staff would work in the Church at their discretion. The gallery will be open by appointment only monitored by Sheldon. This policy will be reviewed every 2 weeks starting on September 1. Motion seconded by Jack.

6 For 0 Opposed

Edward's Report

Finances are good. Giving is strong. Big revenue sources are in. Expenditures are under budget. New expenditures are increasing.

Kudos to Cara for the return of a former tenant.

July minutes are accepted by consensus.

Fall Festival.

The Fall Festival on September 12th is postponed.

The committee was awarded a \$2500 grant by the Downtown Neighborhood Association. The money will be used for a festival next spring.

Search for childcare person

A childcare person is still needed due to lack of interest in the position. It pays \$17 an hour. If anyone knows of a possible candidate, contact Margaret.

Our children's ministry

Margaret proposed setting up a forum or discussion group about the future of children's ministry at our church. ~~to bring more families to the Church.~~ Edward recommended inviting an expert on the topic to facilitate the meeting. Eric suggested two possibilities. The new Church services should be a draw for families. Margaret, Eric, and Cara will follow through on this.

The fate of Second Sunday, September 12, will be decided at the September 2nd Council meeting.

Budget Development Committee (BDC)

The BDC will consist of Secretary-Treasurer Edward Eggleston

Council Vice Moderator Phil Owen

Senior Minister Eric Elnes

Business Manager Cara Rothe

Member at Large

Margaret recommended Ann Muir as a member of the FOC and the BDC. Ann has expressed interest in finances and how to use resources. She would like to become treasurer. The Council invites Ann Muir as appointment to the FOC.

6 For 0 Opposed.

In favor of the above BDC to include Ann Muir

6 For 0 Opposed

Margaret and Edward will set up the time for the BDC meeting.

Stewardship Captain

The following were suggested as candidates to be stewardship captains and/or to be on the stewardship team: Lesley Sepetoski, Bunny Oliver, Avena Ward, Susan Rogers, Nanci Tangeman, Ann Muir, Paul Adcock, Tom Corbett

The Council gives its approval for Eric and Margaret to approach the above candidates and to determine the makeup of the stewardship committee.

Financial Transparency

Margaret reemphasized the ways members can have more clarification about the Church's finances.

1. Ask to see the financial status of the Church
2. Attend Church Council meetings
3. Become a member of the FOC
4. Attend the meeting(s) held before voting on the budget

Closing prayer by Eric

Submitted by Kathy Sheibley

