

Church Council Meeting
Conducted via Zoom

May 18, 2021
6:30 PM

Attendance (Council in Bold): Sheldon Hurst, **Margaret Baldwin**, **Christina Hellums**, Nanci Tangeman, Barbara Bennett, **Kathy Sheibley**, Cara Rothe, Tom Corbett, **Edward Eggleston**, **Phil Owen**, **Jack Allman**, Eric Elnes, Nan Wagner, Lindsay Fulmer, **Daniel Russo**

6:30-7:30 pm

1. Opening words- Kathy Sheibley “The Great Turning”

2. Staff reports

Business Manager Report: Cara Rothe

In middle of hiring plan. Interviewed a bookkeeper today —liked. Hired a facilities manager from a couple years ago, is coming back. Moving the process right along. Need to hire a childcare attendant, Sunday ushers? Need to restaff before we open. Full report on Google Drive.

Senior Minister Report: Rev. Eric Elnes

Talked to Gary Vaughan, Daniel is doing better. Processing new CDC guidelines. Walks Nanci has been organizing have been fun, and a great opportunity for congregation people to get together. Contact Nanci for info on who to talk to for who is organizing future walks.

3. Announcements

No Announcements

4. Thanks-Living proposal from ArtReach Committee- Lindsay Fulmer, Tom Corbett
Nanci: Our meetings were to comb through all ideas and get them to a reasonable proposal.

Sunday Sept. 12. See Thanks-Living Proposal document on Google Drive for summary.

Each activity would require a committee for planning purposes.

Worship Service planned. Probably committee that is already in place.

Parade: Maybe New Orleans style

Art Exhibit featuring unhoused artists, maybe with prizes.

Hands-on art activity

Poetry displayed or performed.

Lots of this comes from community organizations. — P;ear, Street Roots, etc.

—community organizations show some interest.

Portal to 7x7 churches, immigration focus

Sanctuary open for meditation if fits with days activities

Community organizations with info tables

Wide table meal event— lots of logistics. Can’t do a potluck, because serving the public.

Incorporate sustainable practices where we can.

Show what people are doing in the community. Going beyond here is a meal or shoes, recognizing that people are more than just their survival that they are people.

Ask Barbara Bennett for details on working with the homeless and community organizers.

Tom Corbett Budget: Estimated \$7,400 in expenses.

Budgeted more money than needed just in case. There is enough money in here for winnowing, or more activities.

Planned for a baseline Lasagna meal, nutritious food not junk. Serve a quality balanced meal. Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, dessert = cookie. Fresh water (not bottled water) biodegradable cups, coffee, cream and sugar.

Supplies: 50-55 awards \$ gifts. Planning \$50 a person.

Knife, forks and spoons biodegradable. Our silverware walks away.

Outreach in PR: \$500 comes out of grant money.

Permits & Fees: \$500

Food over-budget could provide us with money to hire a band.

Possible income from church is \$1000, donations \$1000, Congregation members \$2,400 and

Grant \$3,000 Neighbors West-Northwest Small Grant.

Nanci: Motion: Fall Festival per proposal. 2nd. Christina.

7:00PM Questions/ comments:

Nan: Excited, loves all of it. Way the church members are involved with committees.

Contingencies for rain? or Other people show up?

Nanci: Part of logistics/security planning team.

Sheldon: Good warning. Thank you Nan.

Phil: Motion and 2nd. Clarification: Voting on please continue on this and offer up a \$1000?

Margaret: No. not what we are voting on at this moment, motion can be amended. before we vote on it.

Eric: Interesting idea, great energy of group, lots of time into it. Who is the chair of the event? or Co-chair? So congregation knows who to talk to.

Challenge: Sparse on money, nervous about a general call. Privately approached people. We [council] should give you more than you asked for from the congregation via church council so that the general call is less. So that we are all contributing to that.

Barbara: Not a big fan of asking church members for money that they may not have. But we can narrow down food expenses. There are more than enough organizations to ask to join our festival. Let's save money where we can. Thank you.

Margaret: Church is excited about idea when they hear about it. So expand budget for council not general call for \$ from congregation. Because we are entering Stewardship season.

Sheldon: Nanci and Lindsay work as team as co-chairs for festival planning of the event.

Margaret: One of you gets contacted from congregation.

Nanci: Both passionate about this, but if somebody says this is what we have been waiting for, then someone else could lead it if they wanted to.

Edward: Will you receive donations the event day?

Barbara: In terms of grant can we do that?

Nanci: We cannot charge admission. Send the costs to someone else like Clay street table.

Margaret: Fundraiser committee good question for them.

Eric: Meal is free, donations will be split between sponsor organizations.

Cara: Going to organizations or honorariums is the best idea. But congregation is covering all the costs for the event ie. sound, set-up, security, etc. Scrub the budget, found \$1000 dollars from other events that we have not done this year. Have not used Hospitality or Community buckets. Found \$2000 total. Swing covering the permit. Event logistics budget. = \$2500 off of total expenses. If you didn't ask congregation or public for money would you shave off food or honorariums? If you collect money day of, it could go to honorariums. If you cut the honorariums in half, then you have a balanced budget.

Tom: Numbers should come in last after we have ideas of people numbers. 10% is more or less needed to balance budget.

Sheldon: Many of these things can be dealt with in committee form.

Eric: Friendly amendment to motion: Congregation not asked for general call \$, \$2500 chipped in. Affirm co-chairs of event.

Amendment approved.

Margaret: Motion to Vote with Amendment.

Vote: Unanimous in Favor.

7:24PM Festival committee left except for Sheldon Hurst.

Dante Russo came to meeting :-) (and left 7:26PM)

6. Immigrant Welcoming preliminary approval for Oliver lecture idea

Margaret: They want to have permission to look for speakers, they have some money already in budget.

Phil: Motion: Accept their proposal.

2nd: Daniel

Edward: about time we get it going, it has been at least 3 years.

Eric: immigration has really struck fire in congregation, pour gasoline on it.

Sheldon: coincides with 7x7 churches immigration exhibition.

Vote: Unanimous in Favor.

5. Discussion of reopening, restarting in-person worship and events- Cara

Vote on when, how to reopen

Margaret: Timeline is real squishy.

Eric: Proposal D: 3 Month experiment: Aug. Sept. Oct.?

Response to people who do want to get together in the church.

2nd Sunday be like what we did before pandemic just on steroids.
Service would be for those on internet instead of straddling both worlds internet and not.
Use Darkwood Brew skills.
Coffee House setting, with tables and barista. Estimated 40 people coming.
Ask grant people to do a 50/50 for the rest of the year if our congregation likes it.

If council agrees to the proposal, then Eric will start on the proposal right away, and we would hear relatively quickly.

Has been able to raise 10x the amount of his salary in the past, but that is because people trust him.

Synopsis of the Next Steps:

We need council approval -> ask donors -> yes -> move forward with trial 3 month period. After trial either move forward with 50/50 and/or some amendments. Or we don't like it, so stop it.

Margaret: Questions:

Sheldon: Affirm the usage of the Artreach gallery in this way would be great. The recognition of the artists.

Edward: One strength is recognizing internet is not the same as in person and that we are trying to play to the strengths of both internet and in person with the sanctuary.

Nan: Will be presented to congregation?

Eric: Hypothetical: Council has backed it, donors have that okay. But nothing moves forward until congregation says so.

Margaret: June 13th Congregation Meeting? Enough time for Eric to hear back from donors.

1 scenario: Very soft start in July with a 2nd Sunday? Aug.-Oct. Trial period.

Eric: Don't necessarily count July as evaluation purposes.

Pandemic has caused equipment delays.

Cara: Push to Sept. Would mean hiring 3 people a month to get this to work. We could swing it in Aug. But we would have to manage expectations. Best foot forward: Needs time for right equipment, people, etc. Lots of committees need to come together and plan how to do this stuff. Logistics, organizing, getting back together. We don't have a system in place right now that we can just move. Pandemic had us just wait.

Edward: What if we just open now?

Cara: There is staff covered to open for June 1st if needed to. But a lot of help would be needed to do so. Ask congregation for some feedback at the end of August: What do you think?

Margaret: Vote on in congregational meeting, but introduced prior to that meeting to the congregation so they have time to digest it before voting.

Cara: We have to have childcare of some sort.

Eric: Provide it on the 2nd Sunday for sure. But not necessarily for internet days.

Sheldon: Is the coffee available for the art gallery during the week?

Cara: An add on possibility. A cafe open during the week. That conversation is going to take a while to iron it all out.

Comments:

Christina: I like it all, nothing more to add.

Kathy: Sanctuary needs to be open for quiet contemplation if needed (like if you have a crappy week.)

Daniel: Hope it comes together.

Jack: Great opportunity for people to sit and eat. I don't like coffee at all, make sure there is a drink for all.

Invite someone from the Japanese or Chinese community to brew tea for us traditionally.

Has lots of experience in coffee houses, ask if you need to.

Cara: Tea House

Phil: Move to accept Art & Soul Cafe proposal and empower Eric to contact potential donors to move forward.

2nd: Kathy

Sheldon: Art & Soul Cafe book, notes on Creating (1991).

Vote: Unanimous in Favor

Margaret: Talk about core group people possibility of voting at a later date.

8:05PM

B. Motion to spend funds- Edward Eggleston

Motion to spend an initial amount from Reserve account to get basic equipment which will serve our needs for any scenario in the future. These would be refunded by grant money from donors.

Edward: Move that the church authorize \$15,000 for needed equipment for anticipated Art & Soul Cafe proposal.

Eric: This is equipment we want anyway regardless of Art & Soul Cafe proposal.

Edward: Resources in Reserve account that are unrestricted.

Margaret: Take to FOC for oversight needs.

Edward: Move that funds get spent.

Cara: FOC has already said ready for council to start spending reserves for this.

Phil: Eric spends this.

Edward: Streaming is here, this is a move towards quality.

2nd: Kathy

Vote: Unanimous in favor

8:12PM Discussion

Margaret: How do we introduce the proposal to the congregation before June 13th?
—Some forums?

Kathy: Possible to have a piece of it in one of our zoom services.

Eric: Maybe wait from some word form the donors to see if we might have the funds before we present fully to the congregation.

Margaret: Less than a month.
Eric is not here on June 6th.

Christina: Are forums the best way to present it to the church? When we did it prior, not everyone showed up or could make it, and then from those who could we had rumors spreading around the church.

Cara: Break it into pieces of presentation: 3 or 4. People from council and church work on it and present it to the church so it doesn't come from just Eric. Then their will be actual members behind it. Forums are not the only way. Making little snippet videos could be a way to do it.

Nan: Little video asks?

Eric: Proposal document for donors and as well as presented to church members.

Cara: internal communications.

Phil: 1 page bullet-pointed document to look at with questions answered. With ideas of what congregation members can do.

Christina: Unconventional idea: Since Book Club is an activity that many church members attend, and I have a book called *Out of the 4th Place*, which is about moving church into Coffeehouses instead of traditional buildings. Which is similar to what we are doing, except we are moving a coffeehouse into our church. Then perhaps we can have a council member, or Eric, or someone who knows the proposal backwards and forwards host the book club meeting to explore ideas and viewpoints using the book as a door opener into our idea.

Eric: We don't necessarily want people to confuse what we are doing with the book. But for those who want to dive deep the book might be a good idea.

Margaret: the buzz will go on in small groups.

Phil: what was the date for Pride?

Jack: June 20th is Pride day and Native American Pow-wow day. And Father's Day.

Margaret: Camp Adams is scheduling picnic days. In Late Aug. Should I pursue it?
Will pursue it. And keep us informed of what she finds out.

8:28PM Eric closes.