

Excelsior United Methodist Leadership Team

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2023

Attending: Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Julie Newell, John Fischer, Jill Jewell, Tyler Cronk, Julie Newell, Jennifer Brady Johnson, John Peichel (guest), Bill Lester, Phil Pulitzer

Open with what was a highlight from the weekend.

Communication - Jill – August Minutes presented.

Bill Lester moved for approval of the August minutes, Julie seconded. Approved unanimously.

Stewardship – Bill Lester

Kaitlin and Nate Holm are focusing on doing a more detailed mailer to get people to donate for 2024 with FAQs instead of in person meetings. Plan to have mailer out prior to Nov. 5th. Theme may be Investing to Thrive. Plan to have an open house after church to get people's questions answered for a number of weeks. Team feels like we need a \$ goal. They are requesting that Leadership Team members be available after church during the month of Nov. during these open houses. We need to be prepared to talk about our goals and the budget process.

Transition Team with Sanctuary Plan – John Peichel

He reviewed the current status on process and microphone/sound system situation and what needs to be updated to improve the live stream. (See attachment) Talked about which items are urgent and which can wait. Priority is for 2 wireless and 1 podium mike. Estimate received is \$12,869 for two body wireless mikes and 1 podium mikes. Jill moved to purchase the \$12K mikes, Bill seconded. Motion passed. After equipment arrives (3-6 months?) will review how things are going with all the mikes and the sound system.

Finance – Tyler Cronk

Tyler reviewed the attached Budget vs Actuals report.

He will plan to start budgeting earlier due to deficit so we can be ready for November Stewardship meetings.

He also plans to work with teams/committee to consider a "what do we need" vs "requesting the same amount we had last year" for putting together a budget. He plans to create a worksheet so groups can understand what dedicated accounts are available for them to use.

Tyler plans to meet with Kaitlin Holm to meet to discuss stewardship planning, too.

Brooke's update –

Discussed when to do personalized thank you notes to those who give to special projects.

She reported that the three adult groups that have started this fall are going really well. (book study, contemplative practice, and Mon morning bible study). Lots of new church members are getting involved.

Discussed possibly applying for an Investing in Congregation grant. It is a \$20K is max award for a new program (not capital expense). Grant application would be due Oct. 31. After discussion, decided to bring this to the ministry teams in late spring 2024 so they have time to brainstorm and write up the grant application and possibly get money in 2025.

Brooke plans to apply for a Lily Grant that will allow her to take a sabbatical from May – August 2025, if awarded. She needs to apply by March 2024 for consideration. If she does not get it this round, will apply again. It is a time for rest and reflection for her but also a time for the church to reflect on our ministries.

Ministry Team - Jennifer Brady Johnson

There is an all teams meeting scheduled for Oct 12th.

Anti-racist team is planning a book discussion on the book *Getting To Ellen*. This book is written by a local author. They plan to have both online and in person discussions about the book and are hoping the author can participate.

Group is also planning a Sunday presentation (either Dec 3 or 10th) by Louise Mattson who works with the Native American Division of Indian Work. She will do a Sunday presentaton with lunch and discussion afterwards.

Ministry teams are also working on improving communication with the congregation with the use of hyper links in emails and some changes to where things are found on the church website.

She reported the Environmental Justice team is working on a mission statement.

Next Meeting – Tues, Oct 17th at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Jewell