

Excelsior United Methodist Church
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2023

Attending: Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Julie Newell, Jill Jewell, Bill Lester, Jennifer Brady Johnson

Communications- Julie moved to approved the Oct meeting minutes. Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

Stewardship – Bill Lester. Kaitlin and Nate Holm have received good questions and responses to mailer and announcements at church. Approximately 45 responses have been received to date. This is not unexpected. Responses should come in little at a time through the end of the year. Then, we will make calls or send emails after Jan. 1. They are suggesting we move the stewardship drive to Oct next year since our efforts currently bump into the holidays where people are busy.

Ministry teams – Jennifer Brady Johnson. Jennifer reported the “Getting to Ellen” book discussion event was successful. About 75 attendees with quite a few from outside the congregation. Ellen sold lot of books that night. Big thank you to Kay Erickson, Sarah Heyd Johnson and the rest of the committee for all their efforts to pull this together.

Brooke’s update – The periodic pastor performance review zoom meeting with the District Superintendent, Brooke, and our committee needs to be scheduled. Bill Lester and Phil Pulitzer will review and make suggestions on the pre meeting survey and pass along to the rest of the committee prior to the meeting for additional comments and suggestions. Team discussed date/time options and selected Tues, Jan 16 at 6 PM with our normal Leadership Team meeting immediately following.

Discussed and scheduled the staff and leadership holiday gathering for either at Thurs, Feb 8 or Fri, Feb 9 depending on venue availability.

Music transition team has been formed including Bill Lester, Jeannie Shubitz, Jason Fleck, Barb Gleason, and Peter Cleaveland. This group will discuss music ministry goals for after Gail Fisk’s retirement in May 2024. They will do a multiple choice survey of the congregation in January and also a separate survey of those involved in the music program/groups. Plan to post the position in mid-February.

Congregational care – pastoral care is very busy right now. Brooke is trying to figure out how to address this time of year being a sad time. Perhaps create some plans for 2024 that include talks/speakers on self care during the holidays or special services to address holiday blues. If anyone on the team has ideas, pass them along so she can plan for 2024.

2024 Leadership Team – Discussed the need to look for new members in 2024 and who, if anyone, will be rotating off. New members will start in March.

Trustee notes – (See attachment) Jennifer Brady Johnson noted her support of Jeffery Johnson’s plans for a landscaping/grounds plan. In addition to encouraging congregants/youth engagement, we may be able to apply for grants to help in these efforts.

Jill asked who is shoveling the sidewalks when we get a light snowfall. Jennifer, our office administrator, will bring it up with the Trustees to make a plan for Sundays and during the week.

Brooke noted that she'd like an update on the long term plans for microphone and wires on the alter.

Next meeting – Tues, Jan 16 at 6 PM for a performance review of Brooke with District Superintendent with Leadership Team meeting immediately afterwards. (Zoom)

Repectfully submitted,

Jill Jewell