

EUMC Leadership Team
Meeting Minutes
1/14/25 @ 6:30PM ZOOM

Attending: Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Julie Newell, Jill Jewell, Bill Lester, Jim Stromberg, Tyler Cronk Beth Furkins and Sarah Nelson

MINUTES: Julie moved to approve Dec. minutes. Bill seconded. Approved unanimously.

Brooke reviewed Pastor Report

1. Lots of successes! Weekly Bible study attendance, Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve Services totals were all up over last year. Confirmation program is way up over last year with participation and going well!
2. Challenges - Community lunch attendance was down in Dec. there was discussion amongst leadership about the goal/what does success mean for the community lunch? Do we want to promote more church participation or promote outside-church participation? Is it a fellowship or a community service? Brooke will discuss with the outreach team, see if they want any help from leadership with marketing the community lunch.
3. New Member Class beginning. Lent programming was brought up, but not discussed...table for next meeting.

Finance Update - This was the focus of the meeting. Church Conference coming up on Feb 9th after church. How did we close the year? What will the discussion be at the conference?

Tyler presented. power point. We exceeded our contribution goal, underspent budgeted expenses and basically broke EVEN for 2024 which was a tremendous success. We didn't expect to pull through with a break-even. However, there was discussion around framing that "success" at the conference. Sarah asked if we present it like too big of a success, we risk people getting the wrong idea - we got by the skin of our teeth and have some big finance challenges ahead.

Brooke brought up (from Scott Searle conversations) we do have multiple reasons to celebrate this as success. Most other churches are declining in membership AND giving...and we are not. She said the congregation is aware of the capital needs coming up and the conference will continue to remind and present the facts/information on where we finished 2024 and what we have ahead of us. We want to present information for the congregation at the conference.

We discussed a 1-page finance update coordinating with the Stewardship team to prepare people for the conference and give them something to bring home and review prior to the meeting on Feb.

Tyler presented the cash position (Dec. 24) and apportionments were discussed. Jill asked if we should repay what we have withheld since there has been some resolution? Discussion around what other churches have done. Do we want to be the only church that has saved these dollars? Do we have the solid argument that our church needs these funds for building maintenance and general operations?

Debt service is a large expense on the 2025 budget, the question was asked what options we have? Tyler explained we have and will hold onto enough cash to pay the monthly debt service and we will need to refinance that debt by June 2025.

Next meetings:

2/9/25 Church Conference after service (11:00AM)

2/11/25 Leadership Team Meeting (Zoom)

2/13/25 EUMC Leadership Team/Staff Party

Submitted by Sarah Nelson