

Excelsior United Methodist Church
Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2024

Attending: Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Jill Jewell, Julie Newell, Tyler Cronk, Phil Pulitzer, Beth Firkins and Sarah Nelson

Finance – Tyler

Tyler reviewed the powerpoint slide information (attached in Asana) and reiterated that we need to make a decision on our debt by June, 2025

Brooke gave an update on Stewardship conversations. They are meeting monthly with Scott (advising on financial outlook) and have started individual meetings with parishioners. So far, they have been good conversations and there has been a significant donation made to the Capital fund. Small group conversations will continue and we discussed having a “pledge drive” in the fall, culminating with a celebration/pledge card day after church. Looking at last Sunday in October. Stewardship meetings are reviewing both operating budget, capital fund and future needs of the church.

Trustees - Jill

Insurance- Reviewed a handout regarding insurance. Church’s policy is renewing in Aug, so now is the time to make changes. Jill reviewed changes and there were a few discussions around our roof (basically not insurable, due to age) and the high value assets (do we insure them separately or not- the organ and the stained glass window)

Staff Trainings - looking to review what building/people training needs to be re-visited.

Brush/Buckthorn Removal is on the horizon (also discussed by the Green Committee)

SPRC - Phil

Music Director - No movement on the music director opening. This followed by a number of discussions about options for music moving forward. Brooke mentioned we can keep moving forward without a staff person

directing the various groups - possibility to reduce the # of special music songs in worship. Pre-Covid we were doing 3 hymns and 1 special music song, now we are doing more special music.

Option to ask Gay Mens Chorus to sing on a regular basis? \$500/Sunday, but in lieu of a music director, maybe we hire out some ensembles?

Job post will remain up for options to fill the position.

Childrens Sunday School. Phil mentioned a follow-up that will happen with Kali. While she was out there was feedback received from a couple parents that their kids are overwhelmed by the Sunday school class. There are some kids that are distracting, but also there is one room for 4yrs - 5th grade, so discussion followed on whether we can separate into 2 groups? Maintaining 1 staff person? Kali has to rely heavily on volunteers as-is, and it is difficult to keep the various age-groups engaged with the same lesson/materials. Brooke mentioned the addition of some toys to help keep the older kids engaged, when it is no longer nice to go outside and use the park.

Green Space Committee will report to Trustees for communication flow. Trustees can bring it to the Leadership team and we can move forward from there.

Next meeting -

Tues, Aug. 13th PM at Lesters House

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Nelson