

Excelsior United Methodist Church
Leadership Team Minutes
May 23, 2023

Attending: Brooke Heerwald Steiner, Bill Lester, Julie Newell, Jennifer Brady-Johnson, Jim Stromberg, Phil Pulitzer, Tyler Cronk, Jill Jewell

Welcome Team Exercise led by Tyler- Who is your favorite author or book?

Communications - Jill presented minutes and requested motion to approve. Julie moved to approve the minutes; Bill Lester seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

TRUSTEES

Building update – Jim Stromberg. No asbestos in the basement floor tiles so plan to move ahead with installing remaining carpet in August. Plan to paint the basement in June and July.

Sanctuary chairs are supposed to be done by the end of May. They have seen photos of some that are complete. Lynn Hughes will continue to follow up since no delivery date has been set.

Sanctuary furniture should arrive in Sept. Two of the three HVAC units will be installed on June 5th. Will install the third at a later date.

Steve Colby report – Had the cement slab lifted outside the front entrance. Working on security camera set up and additional AV work in the sanctuary. Rainbow flag replaced due to wind damage.

Transition team – A parishioner has paid for a sound engineer, Sam Hudson, to review the sound system and acoustics in our sanctuary. He will start by making recommendations on microphones, mic placement, etc. and will make a second visit after the sanctuary chairs are installed.

ICA food storage/shopping area – Move to the basement center room (former youth room) is complete. Fridges/freezers are installed. Will use the room for the first time on May 24th.

Short and Long Term basement and building use planning – These plans are still in development. More at our next meeting.

Playground update – Bill Lester reported that \$200K has been raised including HC Youth Sports grant and Excelsior rotary funds. Need help from the rotary to get the final approx. \$100K from community donors by end of June. Planning to install the playground in the Spring of 2024. He will be requesting an extension on the HC Youth sports program grant. May do another couple fundraisers but need some big donors to get this project over the goal line. Working on the owners of the apartments across the street for some additional funds.

Pastor report - Brooke. Enjoyed a preaching conference in May. Has sermon plans for the next 9 months. Enjoyed an ecumenical youth trip to Chanhassen DT. Adult small groups are a challenge. New members want a co-ed bible study. We don't have that now. If possible, want to start new small groups without her having to lead. Hoping to plan a funeral/living will workshop for the congregation. Will be

implementing Sunday morning participation of the sermon writing group. Plans to have a contemplative practice group in the fall that will be co-ed.

Finance – Tyler

Right on target after the first quarter of 2023. Will be including an article about the budget deficit in the summer Shorelines to keep congregation abreast of the situation so no surprises.

Group discussed who should be approved signers for the three bank accounts and who should be taken off the various lists.

Ministries – Jennifer

Jennifer received an email from Jason Fleck who explained her role on the committee. Team discussed the quarterly meetings that she'll have to attend or review minutes to keep Leadership Team abreast. Will also work with Brooke and Sarah Heyd Johnson as she eases into this position. Is continuing to sort out contact people for the various ministry groups. Jim Stromberg requested that as Jennifer connects with these groups, she talk to them about how they plan to use the basement space and share that info with the Trustees team.

Misc – Bill Lester

The Excelsior City Council may want to rent our sanctuary for their monthly in person and streamed meetings. (They have their own streaming staff person.) Next meeting is June 1st. He will coordinate this with Steve and Brooke's input and will determine rental fee for the space.

Next Meetings:

Tues, June 27 at 6:30 PM at church.

Tues, August 8 at 6:30 PM at Lester's house (Jill unable to attend. Jennifer B-J will be virtual)

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Jewell