

Present: Moderator Anne Hoekstra, David Allbaugh, Paul Greene, Laurie Allbaugh, Gina Greene, Gordon Lauterbach, Tim Ahrens, Jim Stevenson, Diane Highnam, Karen Jensen, Kay Thuesen, Lauren Reisinger, Craig Driver, Cliff Highnam, and Keith Jorgensen. Staff: Rev. Bret Myers, Michelle Wolfe, Luke Overton, and Abbie Greene.

Moderator Hoekstra called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM using ZOOM technology. Rev. Myers read a prayer by Ted Loder for Reflections.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting. **Paul Greene / Tim Ahrens / Carried**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer David Allbaugh reviewed the April financial report. He opened his remarks stating that the church's finances are in good shape at the one third point of our year. He noted Current Pledges are ahead of budget at 40%. He complimented the membership for maintaining their pledges. Due to the strong cash position at this time, the normal first request for Memorial Pledges from the Endowment Fund was not made. There are plans to request what would normally be the second scheduled disbursement. Dave finished his remarks noting expenses are well below budget in most areas and our cash position is at \$55,000.

**Motion:** To approve the Treasurer's report as presented. **David Allbaugh / Kay Thuesen / Carried**

**Staff Reports:** (See the attached written reports.)

**Music Director:** Luke Overton commented on his written report, noting things have remained routine.

**Youth Director:** Abbie Greene indicated she had nothing additional for her written report.

**Office Manager:** Michelle Wolfe added to her written report that an updated Church Directory is being considered soon.

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Myers began his report requesting we keep two individuals in our prayers. Anna Kendall has moved to Bickford Cottages and welcomes calls, cards and visits as allowed. Russ Towsley is scheduled for surgery June 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that three individuals to date have taken up his offer of "walks with the pastor" and encourages others to also do so. Concerning the "Time Line" he is having all of us contribute to, he would now like to form a task force to work with him on the project. He closed sharing he would be conducting graveside services for Sally Walker on Wednesday.

**Board Reports:** (See the attached written reports.)

**Social Causes and Justice:** Laurie Allbaugh indicated she had nothing to add to the written report. Diane Highnam did add that she has had a conversation with Liz Thorpe concerning the continuation of the Shoebox Project. That project is on hold for this year. Diane added we need to keep these types of project in mind as a church. She plans to bring a couple of ideas to the next committee meeting.

**Creative Ministries:** Paul Greene stressed a point in his written report concerning the scheduling of a presentation by Ayanna Gregory for this September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Spiritual Life & Care:** Gina Greene commented on her written report. Moderator Hoekstra added a thank you to the board for their efforts on delivering cards, flowers and gift bags to church members.

**Physical Resources:** Gordon Lauterbach reported a meeting with our insurance adjustor to determine the scope of work resulting from the water damage a few months past. Actual damages were set at \$130,000 with an added depreciation factor of \$30,000. A contractor has been suggested by Paul Prescott for the plaster work. Gordon also commented on the estimated cost for painting in the dining room area at \$5,000.

Consideration is being given to ceiling tile work in the restoration, but not yet bid. There was some discussion on possible damage to the keyboard and speakers located upstairs.

Spiritual Growth & Programs: Tim Ahrens reviewed his written report and thanked all those who have participated in the various projects these last few months, the planting of trees and shrubs being one of them. He noted some consideration is being given to the possibility of a church picnic in early June.

**Committee Reports:** (See the attached written reports.)

**Endowment:** Jim Stevenson reviewed his written report.

**Memorial:** No report.

**Nominating:** No report.

**Grin and Grow:** Cliff Highnam reported on Grin and Grow's desire for additional space and presented a written document with the details. For the additional space on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, rent would increase by \$120 per month. Discussion followed on releasing the additional room to Grin and Grow with the consideration of potential future need by the church for that space. Additional discussion on the fit of Grin and Grow as a mission of the church and their plans for expansion to meet future needs was covered.

**Motion:** To proceed with the renting of the additional second floor space to Grin and Grow for \$120 per month, with the understanding this action would be reviewed annually. **G. Lauterbach / D. Highnam / Carried**

Additional discussion on Grin and Grow's desire to relocate the playground to the front of the building was opened by Karen Jensen. Moving the playground to the front of the Education Building would address several safety concerns for Grin and Grow. Drawings for this move were presented to the board of trustees. Cliff Highnam explained these drawings. Discussion followed on the particulars of such a move and concerns by the board. Questions of public access and should the area return to the church, would Grin and Grow return the area to its original condition were asked and answered, both in the affirmative.

**Motion:** To approve the concept of moving the playground forward. **Paul Greene / Gordon Lauterbach / Carried.**

**Love INC:** No report.

**Organ Project:** Paul Greene reported the \$90,000 Capital Campaign has been closed and the goal reached. The organ work is nearing completion and expected to be finished by the end of the month. He explained some to the details now being done to complete the reinstallation.

**Pandemic Reopening:** Tim Ahrens reviewed his written report. He noted the committee has been meeting regularly and monitoring the Black Hawk County Health Department's data and guidelines.

**Old Business:**

**Bainter Fund:** Moderator Hoekstra reviewed the changes suggested to the Bainter Fund Guidelines. See the attached document with the red wording being the proposed changes.

**Motion:** To accept the changes to the Bainter Fund Guidelines. **Tim Ahrens / Paul Greene / Carried**

**New Business:**

**Reopening Plans:** Tim Ahrens again shared the plans of the committee. With improving health guideline numbers, the committee is considering reopening the church to "in person" worship using specific guidelines. Mid-June would be the current target date to reopen. In general, mask would be required, entering/seating/departure would be done in family groups with proper spacing and the ushers would handle the flow. Announcements would be made once dates are confirmed.

**Senior Scholarships:**

It was reported that two high school seniors are eligible for scholarships this year. Zoe Lennox has applied, and Kenny Steva will be notified for scholarships.

Rev. Myers shared that Ginni Casteel has requested a date for a Memorial Service for her mother, Donna Sheridan. It as suggested that June 13<sup>th</sup> or later would work.

Discussion was had on the possibility of the next Common Meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> to be an “in person” gathering to do so.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Jorgensen, Clerk