

Present: Moderator Anne Hoekstra, Greg Holt, Gina Greene, Diane Highnam, Laurie Allbaugh, Dave Allbaugh, Craig Driver, Cliff Highnam, Paul Greene, Lauren Reisinger, and Keith Jorgensen. Virtually present: Tim Ahrens, Jim Stevenson, Kay Thuesen and Karen Jensen. Staff: Rev. Bret Myers, Abbie Greene and virtually, Michelle Wolfe.

Moderator Hoekstra called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Rev. Myers offered his comments for Reflections.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021, board meeting. **Paul Greene / Laurie Allbaugh / Carried**

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dave Allbaugh opened with a quick review of the September financial report. He noted we are in good financial shape. In his review, he shared that there is some possibility of an increase in utilities in the coming months, both water and natural gas. The details are in his written report. See the attached report. Details for the close of the Organ Fund Capital Campaign are also in his written report. Depending on member pledges received as we close the calendar year, a decision on whether to draw the third Memorial Pledge from Endowment will be made. He commented on the change in banks and noted the resolution for doing so comes later in the agenda.

Motion: To approve the Treasurer's report as presented. **Dave Allbaugh / Craig Driver / Carried**

Staff Reports:

Music Director: See the attached written report.

Youth Director: Abbie Greene commented on her written report. See the attached report.

Office Manager: Michelle Wolfe reported business as usual with no particular items requiring comment.

Senior Minister: Rev. Myers noted the Church History Taskforce is trying to finish their Church History timeline project. The Envisioning Phase will be next. He commented on three special Sunday services held recently; a song fest with a kayaking event following, a blessing of the animals with Crop Walk following, and Worldwide Communion Sunday. A Bible study has begun focusing on the book of Genesis. He noted Stewardship Sundays will begin on October 24th with speakers during three of them. An All-Saints remembrance service will be conducted November 1st. He has requested Luke and Hudson for help in special services for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Rev. Myers also reported making more calls to member of the congregation, both general members as well as shut ins. He informed the board that he is planning some time off following both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Board Reports:

Boards and Committees were requested to have "brainstorming" sessions during their common meetings.

Social Causes and Justice: Laurie Allbaugh suggested a survey concerning membership re-engagement following the year of COVID, as this was an also a concern voiced by Moderator Hoekstra. A series of "Why" questions could be posed concerning lack of attendance. Laurie also shared that their board is focusing on more local mission opportunities at this time. Some discussion followed on the attendance issue. Paul Greene and others volunteered to make calls using the church directory as a guide. See the attached written report.

Creative Ministries: Paul Greene and Greg Holt reported having had a great meeting recently with ideas centered mostly on more community involvement. See the attached report for their specific suggestions. A number of general comments were made on the benefits of getting back to "normal" programming.

Spiritual Life and Care: Gina Greene commented on her attached written report. The key concern is the dwindling number of board members, now down to four. She indicated they will be asking general members of

the congregation for help with Sunday morning duties. They are still meeting monthly and working on ideas to stay connected with the members of the church.

Physical Resources: No report. Moderator Hoekstra mentioned the possibility of contractor beginning work on the water damage areas from last spring.

Spiritual Growth and Programs: Tim Ahrens commented on his attached written report. He stressed the board's feeling that we the church need to "have some fun." They are looking at several events, a chili cookoff, Fall Festival and several other possible events. Winter programming for the youth is a key focus.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: Jim Stevenson had nothing to add to his attached written report.

Nominating: Diane Highnam reported having minimal success in recruiting individuals to fill a number of open positions on boards and committees. She commented on remarks by several individuals confused by apparent discrepancies for in-person, in-church meetings favoring some groups and not others. Some discussion followed.

Grin and Grow: Cliff Highnam reviewed his attached written report. He highlighted a few key points. He shared that staffing has been an issue. The grant for a new playground was not approved. Cliff then focused on some building issues and just who should be responsible for them. One, some loose tiles need repair. The board felt as landlords, the church should be responsible for the repair and cost. Two, an "alert" alarm is needed on the west side exit door. Given Grin and Grow required its instillation, the board felt they should handle the cost. Three, some water on the floor of the upstairs bathrooms has been an issue. A plumber has been called and repairs made. Again, as landlords, the church will handle the cost of repair. Four, there is a lighting issue at the South Street door in the darker days of the year. This issue is still under investigation. It was noted that the contract with Grin and Grow is coming up for renewal and several items are outdated and need updating prior to signing.

Love Inc: Kay Thuesen reported a new director has been hired, Jenny Nelson. She noted that both staff and volunteers are now receiving training for their areas of responsibility.

Reopening: Tim Ahrens commented on his attached written report. Following a spirited discussion by the members present, it was the consensus that indoor services are now necessary with the usual precautions in place.

Old Business:

Grin and Grow contract renewal: As noted above, the contract will be reviewed and updated for signing.

New Business:

Moderator Hoekstra reviewed the contract situation with Rev. Myers. He was hired as a Designated Term Interim, which allows him to be considered for the Settled Pastor position. She has called a Special Board of Trustees meeting for November 2nd to consider this decision. Rev. Myers has been asked to make his intentions known by this date. Depending on his decision, the board will know what steps will then be necessary to fill the Settled Pastor position. Moderator Hoekstra closed by noting staff reviews will begin in a couple of weeks.

Bank Resolution: See the attached Banking Resolution as prepared by Treasurer Allbaugh. Dave reviewed the resolution and its purpose.

Motion: To accept the Banking Resolution as presented. **Dave Allbaugh / Paul Greene / Carried**

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Jorgensen, Clerk