



Church Council Meeting October 16, 2023

Minutes

Council Members in Attendance: Joe Stobaugh, Emma Williams, Brooke Messer, Dub Newman, Lee Wiley, Max Swartzendruber, Jim Mabile, Constance Harp, David Tabor, Dana Donohoe, Lary Hooten, Diane Brooks

Brooke Messer welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Joe Stobaugh offered an opening prayer.

In presenting the PPRC update, Lary Hooten shared that the committee was working on the Marks of Fruitfulness. When asked by Brooke regarding the Sabbatical Policy, he said it would be presented at the November Church Council meeting.

In the Trustees update, Dub Newman reported that the same projects are pushing forward. Lee Wiley said there was a little delay regarding the Youth Center, but it should still be finished by the end of the year. When asked about the Tower staircase, he said it was out of code and that was the reason for the boards mounted that would be replaced with glass.

Reporting for the Lay Leaders, Diane Brooks said they were planning a welcome reception for Colin in November and it might be combined with a diaper shower since their baby is due soon. PPRC members will be asked to provide refreshments.

Constance Harp presented the finance report and said the church has to date received fifty-five cumulative cards for the 2024 Generosity Campaign. \$361,854 has been received from online donors with recurring donations but have yet to submit an Estimate of Giving card. Seventy-eight cards have not been received in 2024 versus 2023. Of those cards not yet received in 2024, \$878,831 is the total amount of contributions. Brooke asked if we could set up the system to continue credit card payments. Constance said credit cards can be set up as never ending and members are able to perform that task themselves. She shared we have a very low percentage of emails with statements to members that are opened. She said Jennifer Tucker will go online at the first of the year to see if changes have been made, especially if someone increases their pledge. It is a two step process: first is to submit the card changes and 2) go online to make changes. The 2023 weekly analysis is \$47,319 below 2022. For 2023 EOY Projections, we are right on target. She thanked Dub for his help.

Joe Stobaugh presented the Town Hall recap. He said Brooke and Alex have made announcements to Sunday School classes. And Joe has thanked several classes. Brooke said our mission is to get younger members to give. Joe said the practice of giving is about the spiritual practice of generosity. God is calling us to be generous just as the generations before us.

Emma Williams reported that Colin took confirmands to the Bishop's rally and confirmation retreat. There is increased confidence within the Youth. She said the Advent Celebration will be on December 10 with a chili cookoff competition, Live Nativity, tree lighting, and caroling. It is an event for our congregation and community.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Joe said only three positions remain to be filled. He said Janet Bustin asked how our church can support the war in Israel and Gaza. Options for immediate giving are through the United Nations Assembly and a Gaza City hospital. Later, the congregation will be given the opportunity to contribute to an UMCOR collection. Charge Conference will be November 9 at which the District Superintendent will be present and the Bishop on Video. Thanksgiving Square service will be November 16 at which the Bishop will speak, singing from the choir and a

reception following the service with the opportunity to meet Jews and Muslims and express gratitude in our traditions. Faith Forward Dallas leaders will recognize our differences. And we can learn about each others traditions and how we can most effectively support one another.

Lary moved approval of the minutes and Dub seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Brooks
Lay Leader