



## Church Council Meeting

August 28, 2023

### Minutes

Brooke Messer welcomed everyone and thanked them for their service.

Joe Stobaugh opened the meeting with prayer.

Joe referenced his new weekly emails highlighting the growth of the realm of God and sharing the wonderful things we have seen God do in our world. Brooke encouraged everyone to sign up to receive his emails.

Lary Hooten shared his PPRC update. Colin Craft is our new Youth Pastor, and he is very excited about working with the Youth. Trey West is relatively new serving as our Communications Director. He provided a very detailed written Communications report.

Diane Brooks gave the Lay Leaders report encouraging everyone to sign up for the Fall Fellowships September 17 and 24. Just as we experienced last fall and spring, the fellowships are a wonderful opportunity to further our friendships in faith with fellow members. As in the past, they will be intergenerational with an emphasis for new members to meet longer term members. We already have members who have graciously offered to host the fellowships both evenings.

Joe Brannon shared that the biggest issue in the Finance report is insurance. Revenue this year is the same as last year which is a real positive. Expenses are up due to insurance. He and Constance will have an update next month regarding a special ask.

Dub Newman reported that the Trustees update includes four major items:

- Deferred Maintenance Progress
- Youth Center Construction Update
- Insurance Claim for the Chiller
- Insurance Claim for 12/22 Flood

The chiller replacement is the most expensive item. The fire system should be completed by the end of October. And the roof repair work has started.

Thomas Wainscott provided an update on the old elevator. With the help of a consultant, they are close to accepting a bid. The consultant is writing specs for the maintenance and monthly inspections. It will be replaced and brought up to code.

Dub requested endorsement from the Council and the Council agreed. It will take about two months and may be completed by January. Youth choir signatures were found inside the elevator doors! The kitchen dishwasher will be replaced for \$7,500.

Thomas said he appreciated all the work by Dub, Constance, Sean and Jim.

Lee Wiley gave a Youth Center update. The cost has increased due to inflation. The Tower stairs, the bathrooms and the staircase by the Welcome Desk are all out of code. The demo and the abatement are completed. Framing will start this week and completion hopefully by the end of December.

Dub said the space is so large! A wine bottle was found in the wall dated 1978 when the new organ was installed! The only item to increase in the Youth Center budget was construction. Council members expressed their appreciation. Dub said

we are able to take this on because of our confidence in the church's future! He thanked Joe, Emma, Constance and Jim for their support.

Emma Williams gave a report on recent successful church events: Pentecost Celebration with original music, Annual Conference participation, VBS successful collection of items for several beneficiaries, hired Youth Minister after meeting with Youth and parents, commissioning interviews in January, Trey's accomplishments, initiatives, communication grid and requests, Senior High Youth trip to Taize, France in June, CFF listening sessions, GFF renderings by the end of September or beginning of October, Dede Cassad's memorial service, nominations and leadership committee meeting today, Senior Ministries is now "Forever Beginnings", Ezri starting divinity classes, staff retreat in Denton upcoming team building, September 17 is Music Sunday and new worship series - "Come to the Table".

Joe Stobaugh presented the Mission/Vision of the church in terms of how we can accomplish God's dream for us. A fundraising firm is helping us to connect mission, vision and generosity. What are the strengths of our church? What is God calling us to do? How do we strengthen areas in need? How do we make disciples of Jesus Christ to change the world? Who does the disciple become? He offered the following timeline:

- 1) Beyond the Horizon - five years out
- 2) Background Vision - three years out
- 3) Mid Ground Vision - one year out
- 4) Foreground Vision - ninety days out

This will be tied to the stewardship and tithing campaign which will roll out October 1. Communications and surveys go out then. By December, how close are we to achieving this? It will begin March 31 and cards will be submitted March 31.

Brooke asked that we pray for this going forth and to keep the messaging positive with energy and excitement.

Joe announced we will feature four mission partners every quarter beginning October 29. He said the Christmas tree lighting cost is \$21,000 total. Those funds are not available this year. He asked if we should raise the money to buy our own tree or consider other alternatives? Most members agreed to consider alternative ideas this year.

The next Church Council meeting is September 25.

Emma closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Brooks