

Church Council Notes November 22, 2021

Present: Cathy Rauch, Lisa Ross, Clint Cruse, Erin Milligan, Sue Herzberg, Steve Wilke, Sabrina Trupia, Lynn Hunt

Absent: Steve Smidowicz

Opening words: Erin Milligan

Check-in

Discussion of Fifth Principle- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Several people shared that the democratic process is ‘messy’ but that we keep trying and learning from past errors. Transparency is important with building trust. The need for communication in many forms is very important.

Extensive discussion about how decisions are made in the church, especially concerning statements that may seem political in nature.

Reports:

Report from the Administrator: Lynn Hunt

It was reported that we had our first in-person worship service. About 42 people attended and overflow seating was not needed. About 62 people watched the live stream.

Report from Policy Board Rep: Steve Wilke

Who speaks for the church: The Policy Board made a decision that issues that come up go to Rev. Mason first and then she decides to either take it to the Executive Committee or to the full congregation.

Reports from Cluster Chairs-

Facilities Cluster: Clint Cruse

Facilities have been receiving bids on roofing repair over the Hosmer room. It will be expensive to fix this leak.

The floor in the pre-school is being repaired.

Covid Task Force has shifted its focus and beginning to look at living with an endemic rather than a pandemic.

Outreach and Social Action Cluster: Lisa Ross

Partner Church is rescheduling their fundraising efforts.

Toward Justice is sponsoring ARREST 2 which will focus on the St. Louis area.

Also sponsoring a discussion of the movie ‘The Condor and the Eagle.’

Washington University students did an extensive study of William Greenleaf Eliot and his attitudes toward slavery. Their report was published the campus Student Life paper (some of these students had been in touch with Toward Justice).

Growth and Engagement Cluster: Erin Milligan

Care and Concern is delivering pumpkin bread to congregants.

Alliance is working on the OpShop and looking at how to increase membership.

Programming Cluster: Sue Herzberg

RE search for a DRE is ongoing.

RE is working on the Pageant.

ERDE met recently for the first time in quite a while..

Work on the play space continues.

Stewardship Cluster: Steve Smidowicz (submitted short email update)

We are over budget by \$3600. While obviously a current deficit, it is not worrisome at this time of the fiscal year.

He thinks we'll be closer to the budget when we close out the calendar year.

There are no other finance items/issues at this time.

Continuing Business: “welcoming” implementation

New Business

Closing Words: Erin Milligan

Adjournment