

## **Church Council Agenda for 2/26/2024**

**Present:** Sherry Bassi, Kevin Kellogg, Grace Munie, Kathy Wire, Lisa Ross, Tom Finan, Alison Lamothe, Lynn Hunt

**Guest:** Mike Bray

**Opening words:** Kevin Kellogg

**New Business:** None

### **Reports from the Administrator and Policy Board Rep:**

**Report from the Administrator:** Lynn Hunt

Spent time supporting the Unfish Fry. It was successful – still working on getting the final tallies.

Have been working on supporting the Annual Canvass. People should be able to pledge online on Thursday 2/29. Will spend a good deal of time in March supporting the Canvass.

**Report from the Policy Board Rep:** Alison Lamothe

Jeremy Colton resigned as treasurer. He was thanked by the full Board. Kathy Wilke was appointed interim treasurer by the Board.

The Board approved a ballot initiative to support reproductive rights in Missouri. The Board is looking to establish a set process for approving such requests which would include having people have an appropriate committee support the petition request.

There was a question about how the congregation can address social justice issues as a whole. There are more funds available in the Sabbatical Reserve Fund than was first realized.

### **Reports from Cluster Chairs:**

**Social Action and Community Engagement:** Lisa Ross

See attached report for proposed changes to the Social Action and Community Engagement cluster. Basically it says that every committee engaged in Community Engagement has a representative on one committee which meets regularly.

Is working to gather more information about groups identified as a possible community organizations that we as a congregation can partner with (as a part of the Active Hope project): Gateway 180, Tabernacle, and Wellston Loop.

March 16th the BLM witnessing will resume. Toward Justice class Gimme Shelter is going well. Welcoming Congregations is sponsoring a speaker on ProNouns on April 21st.

**Programming Cluster:** Grace Munie

Unfish had 290 attendees. Trivia Night is April 13th. Boston Trip continues to have a variety of fundraisers.

**Stewardship Cluster:** Kathy Wire

Finance met a couple of weeks ago. The Canvass is underway – Sarah Francois and Erin Milligan are co-chairs.

Finance will be working on a budget and Council members will be asked for information. Working with Kathy Wilke to discern what is the purview of the Finance chair and the treasurer. Finance develops the budget and reviews it and also reviews investments with our broker. Treasurer oversees day to day transactions and transfers of funds. Wants to do some work towards promoting/educating about legacy donations.

**Facilities cluster:** Tom Finan

Looking at large issues of how are we going to use our building for ourselves and the community and how can we sustain building repairs and maintenance in the future.

The committee is putting together policies and procedures for the group.

Kathy Wire stressed that from a financial perspective we need to look at ongoing needs, emergency and long term needs as they have different financial answers.

It was suggested to do another cleaning day.

Has requested that the Board engage a visioning process for the use of the building.

**Growth and Engagement Cluster:** Kevin Kellogg

Feels that we can do a better job about integrating new people into the life of the church. What are methods we can use to do a better job? Suggested doing another Committee Fair and perhaps committees can do a presentation at the new member luncheon.

It was suggested that we have a buddy system for new members. Also an easy way for people to find social justice projects in which to be involved. Also reintroducing Circle Supers. Coffee with a newcomer outside of church.

**Closing Words:** Sherry Bassi

**Adjournment**

## Proposed Revised Structure Social Action and Community Engagement Cluster

Proposal of a new Committee: **Community Engagement**. The **Community Engagement Committee** would be comprised of members of all existing committees involved in community engagement including Social Responsibility, Toward Justice, Trinity Food Program, Litter Pick-up, Sandwich Making, Welcoming Congregations, Holy Ground Collaborative, and Designated Collections .

The **Community Engagement Committee** would serve as a hub to coordinate outreach, community service, education, advocacy, and social witness to create synergistic community impacts and optimal impacts of First UU resources.

The specific organization of the **Community Engagement Committee** would be based on further meetings with all the above group members present. The organization of the committee may be developed to have individual members or task forces engaged with specific projects or roles.

The Community Engagement Committee will meet monthly and provide timely response to congregants with social action projects or ideas.

The following SACE programs function independently of the Coordinating Committee:

First Church Community Fund

Partner Church

Therefore, the Social Action and Community Engagement Cluster to be organized into 3 committees:

Community Engagement

First Church Community Fund

Partner Church