

Christ United Methodist Church
Council Minutes
March 12, 2024

Present were: Pastor Kurt Freeman, Hollie Kessler, Jack Dwiggins, Dave and Jo Stroud, Judi Austin, Cindy Pulley, Mike Hilsabeck, Rob Outhouse, April Headdy, Becky Daigle, Brian Hall, Claude Sawyer, Pastor Bruce Mowery, Jake Mayor, Carol Yarian, Joan Banning, Scott Gillespie and Nick Fetchina.

Finance Chairperson, Nick Fetchina opened the Finance Committee meeting and conducted business. Minutes of this meeting were taken by Hollie Kessler for the Finance Committee.

Chairperson Scott Gillespie opened the Council meeting. He indicated that the minutes for January had been included in the email notice of the meeting and asked if there were questions or comments. There were none and the minutes were approved as emailed.

Jack Dwiggins reported for Discipleship. Two more Discipleship classes are being planned for this year. The first one will be Life of Worship which will begin April 7th. This will be led by Paula Thoennes, Pastor Kurt and Jessica Karafin. The Life of Generosity class will be scheduled later.

April Headdy reported for Staff Parish. She indicated that they needed a few more committee members. They are planning to do recognition/appreciation events for the staff sometime soon.

Nick Fetchina indicated, in the finance meeting, that the church was doing well financially in the first 2 months of the year. Both Mortgage reduction and PM Fundy had received contributions.

For Care Ministries, Jack Dwiggins and Carol Yarian reported. The Suicide support group continues to meet. The Care ministry is considering how to reach out to the community given our prayer theme of taking Christ into our Community. Carol reported that the Prayer ministry group has been joined by a participant of Brianna's Hope. The Sisters in Loss group had been joined by a new member in January who had lost her husband recently. Unfortunately, she then passed away, but her children expressed their appreciation for her to have been so supported for the short time she was at Christ Church. The Backpack program is being highlighted in the Narthex along with the Kid's Kloset. The Kloset has gained new volunteers for help in sorting clothes and helping clients. Many clothing contributions are coming from the community as a result of conversations among the clients. Carol shared events planned for the church. On April 14th, following 2nd service, a lunch is planned for those newer people who have been attending for the last 2 years. This will provide an opportunity for these people to become better acquainted with each other, learn more about the church and talk about opportunities for volunteering. Once again, a Fall Festival is planned for September 26th at the Wea Creek Orchard. Two food trucks have already committed. Sunday school classes are going well as is the Bible Study group. Pickleball also continues to attract new people.

Mike Hilsabeck, Trustee Chair, said that the committee, with only 4 or 5 volunteers, really needs 6 or 7. The outside lights are all working and now have longer lasting LED bulbs. A spring clean-up is planned for April 21. It was noted that the carpet in the sanctuary needs some repair.

Brian Hall reported for Early Learning. He said the program is now at Level 3. After an incident, it was recommended that security cameras be installed in all of the Early Learning rooms for the children, possibly 8 rooms. Currently there are 3 security cameras which are all

outside the building. Brian will talk with the Early Learning Board about the recommendation for cameras for the classrooms. Discussion ensued about the type of camera (view only or also with audio, monitoring or only for review). Jake suggested that a less expensive option could be cameras similar to ring doorbells. The present budget does not have funds for cameras and there was further discussion about which funds could be used. Grants may be available and can be pursued. Possible funds considered were from interest on the Endowment funds, PM Fundy, or the reserve fund. The interest from the Endowment funds were considered the best source at this time. The trustees will be responsible for getting *quotes* for the cameras.

Jake Mayer reported for the Children's Ministry and the Youth. The Parent's Night Out planned for April has been cancelled due to lack of interest. The Fall Festival will be promoted. Planning for VBS will start in April. Attendance for the Children's Sunday morning activity has been 16 to 18 children in the elementary age group with 4 to 7 in the nursery. The Youth group continues to have 6 to 7 students, but planning a curriculum is difficult because of the age difference between junior high and high school students. Jake said they are trying to reach out to others who are currently not active in the youth group. They will be helping with VBS. Some of the older youth are helping in the tech booth. In his tech report Jake indicated he has had a new adult volunteer. He also expressed appreciation for the flexibility of the band members, one of whom has begun substituting for the choir director.

The new Lay Leader, Jo Stroud, shared that she wants to pursue activities that will facilitate taking Christ to our Community. She proposed bringing communion to the non-churched by possibly offering it at Brianna's Hope, the Kids Klost as well as to the Early Learning Staff. Communion might possibly be taken to LUM or the homeless shelter. She is hoping to be able to offer children's haircuts before school starts to the kids we supply food backpacks for. A handy-man ministry is being considered by Dave Stroud.

Rob Outhouse, director of Brianna's Hope, shared a short history of how and why Brianna's Hope was founded. We have been participating in this ministry for 18 months and have an average of 35 persons at each meeting. He said there were 6 new people at the last meeting and that each one is looking for a better life. Joys and sorrows are always shared, and candles often are lit. Jo Stroud asked if this would be a good place to also serve communion. He has noticed that the attendees have begun moving forward in the sanctuary rather than sitting in the back. T-shirts are given to each person once they have attended for 5 weeks. The meal is a great draw for the program. He then presented to the Council a proposal to apply for a grant from IU Health (in conjunction with the Indiana United Methodist Conference) which would enable them to cover meal costs and a larger cookout event with the Breanna's Hope group at Grace UMC. In the future, a psychologist on staff would be desirable. Following Rob's presentation, April Headdy moved that the Council approve the application for the grant. Mike Hilsabeck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Pastor Kurt commented that he is thankful for our congregation and appreciates their participation in the many mission projects, various committees, and fun activities of the church. He said that, in light of working through the recent incident for Early Learning, the Staff Parish Committee treated the staff to lunch. He asked where are we being called to bring Christ to our Community? He also asked that, if we had all the volunteers needed and all the money needed, what would it look like?

Pastor Kurt closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Banning, Secretary