

## Finance Meeting 9/10/24

**Attendance:** Jack Dwiggins, Becky Daigle, Kurt Freeman, Dana Blanchard, Hollie Kessler, Carol Yarian, Scott Gillespie, Nick Fetchina, Cindy Pulley, Kim Loveless, Dave Stroud, April Headdy

Pastor Kurt opened in prayer

Fundraiser Requests: none

- Update on Fresh Expressions Grant for Theatre Ministry: Pastor Kurt reported that he found out this grant won't work for the ministry that was being proposed so will be bringing a different proposal to Church Council.
- Pastor Kurt reported that CS Lore asked if we would be interested in a part-time local pastor-there would be some grant money to help support this, but Christ UMC would still have to financially support this also. Kurt will need to research more to see if this is feasible.

Minutes from August meeting approved

### Financials:

- This is the first month this year we are "in the red"
- Trustees had several repair expenses this month which is bound to happen (Sewer line broke and had to be repaired and that was \$5300)
- Checking account balance is a bit low, will continue to watch and see if we need to transfer from reserve
- Income is still up over last year, and expenses are below budget

### Early Learning:

- Half-Day Preschool has started
- In the budgeting process now-meeting again next week and in Oct.
- Looking at some new and creative ways to increase income-possibly some "stay and play" days for Half Day students (parents would pay extra for their kids to stay during the afternoon some days). Also looking at providing meals that would arrive prepared (so we wouldn't be using the kitchen). There is some grant money available for helping with this program and we could charge more if we offered meals.
- Also looking at restructuring some rooms/offering in the coming years
- Some classes aren't full so looking at ways to help fill those
- Becky shared about a program she had participated in with her kids when they were young that would be a possibility; moms and kids sign up and pay to come for a structured "playtime"; crafts, snacks and games with one teacher leading.
- Early Learning is hiring so please spread the word

### New Business:

- Proposed Budget for 2025 is a 2.2% increase (\$13,800) over 2024
- Total requested is \$628,002; will discuss/adjust/vote on the budget after the pledge campaign
- Discussion about pledging and how to get more people to pledge. Want to remain positive.
- Becky shared an idea from a previous church that didn't ask for names on missional pledges. Would this be something we could/should try? Committee discussed and liked this idea. We would still record identified giving and send statements, just wouldn't record individual pledges. Agreed to try this and start promoting it 9/29 so we can make sure everyone has the information about anonymous pledge cards. Will also ask for people to pledge their prayers and service.

Shared hopes and concerns of how we are doing financially:

- Mortgage balance way down from a year ago which is great news!
- We are making it-don't think we could hire anyone or make any major investments, but we are good stewards of the funds

- Compared to last year, giving is up and we haven't lost attendance, and we are still doing all our ministries
- Sharing creative ideas and options and supporting each other through new ideas can only make things better!

Pastor Kurt closed in prayer.