

Finance Meeting 1/14/25 via Zoom

Attendance: Jack Dwiggins, Nick Fetchina, Kim Loveless, Judi Austin, Hollie Kessler, Cindy Schrader, Carol Yarian, Scott Gillespie, Kurt Freeman, Becky Daigle.

Pastor Kurt opened in prayer.

No Fundraiser Requests.

Minutes from November meeting approved as submitted.

Financials:

- Finished the year “in the black”
- All areas under budget in expenses and had interest income of \$20,000 for the year
- Starting strong in 2025, had some annual year-end gifts and pre-paid annual pledges for 2025 so balance in general account is healthy to start the year.
- Trustees were under budget by \$40,000 in 2024-utilities under budget
- Kurt commented that historically/typically healthy churches have their staff parish budget at about 50-55% of total and we are at 63%
- Mortgage balance is being paid down; we should be able to make another \$10,000 principal payment in Jan. or Feb.
- Will move the 2024 interest income from Stifel account into Reserve/Savings and Transact interest into PM Fundy to start the year off with zero balances in interest.
- Interest income will go down some this year as the rate is now 4% vs. 5% last year, but still a good rate for us.

Early Learning:

- Looking at custodial options to save some money
- Summer Camp registration begins in February and Half-Day Preschool registration begins in March

New Business:

- Kurt has been asked by a church member if their child could sell girl scout cookies at church. Discussed options and decided that if we allow this for one child, we will have to allow for all. The group thought it would be best if there were a table in the narthex if things were being sold so that congregation could approach and order if they want to, but do not think kids should be approaching people; sometimes people feel obligated to buy or guilty if they don't buy from the kids.
- No Finance meeting in Feb. unless an emergency arises
- Nick will be out of town for the May meeting- we can decide later if we will cancel
- Judi reported for Staff Parish-\$12,170 was collected for the staff love gift which is almost the same amount as last year; thankful for a giving congregation and staff was very appreciative of this gift.
- Discussed need to have a planned giving conversation so that we keep the congregation informed of ways they can give-RMD, Gift Annuities, etc. Maybe a video to show about this. Nick will talk with Aaron Slagel who is chair of Endowment Committee to get something planned.