

Christ United Methodist Church  
Council Minutes  
November 12, 2024

Present were: Nick Fetchina, Mike Hilsabeck, Lisa Hilsabeck, Judy Austin, Audra High, Brian Hall, Hollie Kessler, Joan Banning, Carol Yarian, Emily Mayer, Jake Mayer and Pastor Kurt Freeman.

In the absence of Chairperson, Scott Gillespie, those present decided that each person with a report would present that report for the Council.

For Children's Ministry, Emily Mayer reported that Trunk or Treat had gone well. Attendance may have been down due to many other duplicate events in the area. Parents Night Out, an opportunity for Parents to do Christmas shopping or other activity while their children will be cared for by volunteers, to play games, do crafts, have pizza and watch a movie. For Christmas Eve, the early service (one of 3 services) will be planned for children who will participate in the service. Family Ministry meetings are continuing with parents of both Children and Youth invited to participate.

Brian Hall reported for Early Learning. A budget for Early Learning was passed for the coming year. The Board is considering changing the schedule for the Pre-K classes from two classes of 4 days each week, to one class of 4 days and one class with 5 days each week. This will be presented and parents can respond. An advantage of this change would be additional income from the extra day.

Jake Mayer reported for Youth Ministry. Small groups are being formed, each with a particular focus. He hopes to add more. The youth participated in a community event where they served food to the teams recruited by Wesley Foundation for their winterization project of raking leaves. Planned for December is a Christmas party and an ice skating even in January.

Judy Austin reported for Staff Parish. They have a new member added to their committee, Tyler Hellwig. Staff assessments have been completed. They will be sending the congregation the request for Christmas love gifts for the staff.

Mike Hilsabeck reported that he is still working on gathering information about the ongoing work of the Trustees, as well as a Chairperson for the group. He hopes to have this completed soon!

Nick Fetchina reported for Finance. He was pleased to report that we had made an additional \$10,000 payment for the mortgage which leaves a balance of \$250,000. We will begin to receive additional income of \$1000 a month from IU Health for participating in their follow up program for persons needing some contact after release from the hospital. This money is being allocated to PM Fundy. The budget was presented and Nick indicated that the increase for 2025 is 2%. Increasing our payment for apportionments, Staff salary increases of 3%, and additional for the Trustee budget were the increases, while most other areas actually decreased. The Finance Committee recommended the amount of \$628,002 for the 2025 budget, the recommendation was seconded and passed.

Carol Yarian reported for the areas she oversees.

- Attendance at the services has remained much the same for awhile with 80 to 90 in the first service and 160 to 180 for the second service. She has a couple who are going to help, during second service, to welcome new people and be in the welcome center to give information and answer questions for anyone.
- She currently has enough volunteers to keep Aroma open.
- Two additional volunteers have been added to the Communion team.
- Following Consecration Sunday, 27 persons responded to the prayer and service cards. Of those who were not already connected, she was able to talk with 17 people about their responses.
- Those who chose to join the new Doubt Class combined with the ongoing Faith Builders class and 35 people attended the first session. Once the Doubt study has completed, the Faith Builders will be doing an Advent study.
- Turkey Time will be providing Thanksgiving dinners to 46 – 48 families recommended from 4 elementary schools, a middle school and 6-8 church families.
- Jubilee Christmas kickoff is scheduled for Sunday, November 17. We will be serving 20 families with 52 children. The Jubilee team is new this year and is working well. There will not be a food collection for Jubilee this year. On Saturday, volunteers will be putting up Christmas decorations.
- The Care Givers support ministry will meet in December to re-evaluate continuing in 2025. Although the group has worked hard, the interest does not seem to be there. The Suicide group has not had a great response either and they are deciding what their next steps should be. Particularly for the suicide group, there are many other options available in the community. The connectional care ministry with IU health is off to a slow start. In Carol's meeting with IU recently, IU is still saying the participation will improve.

In a conversation with DS Lori Gibson, Pastor Kurt was asked why our church had not applied for some of the grants available to all churches for new ministries. His response had been that due to our not paying apportionments in full we may not qualify for the grants. She did indicate that she was pleased with our church. The Conference will be decreasing the number of districts within the conference and it will soon be divided into 5 rather than 10 districts which are yet to be named.

Pastor Kurt closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Banning, Secretary