

Board of Stewards

Minutes, August 17, 2023

Board members present: David Kinder, Steve Waters, Dianne Dorsett, Carol Cauley, Dan St. Romain, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, Johnny Boyd, Charles Johnson, Brian Nash

By Zoom: Roger Lind

Absent: Scott Boynton, Jack Rodgers, Pat Crump, Amy Willcox

Staff Present: Jason Adams, Linda Baumheckel, Donna Strieb, Darrell Smith, Ryan Jacobson, Valerie Slade, Jeff Guillory

Secretary: Leah Jayne

Church Members visiting: Tony Westrich, Linda Howe, Ginger Brewer, Helen Groos

Welcome-David Kinder opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and welcomed the board and visitors.

Prayer-was given by Ryan Jacobson.

Approval of May Minutes-Carol Cauley asked for a correction to be made in the last line of the finance minutes. David Kinder agreed. Steve Waters moved to approve the minutes and Johnny Boyd seconded the motion.

The Church Against Racism – Darrell Smith introduced Blake Coffee who is an attorney and conflict resolution specialist. He spoke about the need for the church to be a place of unity and open to all. He then introduced Jermaine Malcolm who he met traveling and they have forged a relationship.

Jermaine shared that in 2020, George Floyd happened. He prayed and fasted to know what he could do to help people navigate conversations about race. Jermaine would like church leaders to take The Civil Rights bus tour. They need people to support the mission and to participate in the tour.

It is an 8-night, 9-day trip across the Southern United States and ends in Oklahoma. David Kinder asked how much they estimate it will cost. Jermaine says about \$2,000 per person and the bus will hold forty-five people. The trip is planned for August 17, 2024. The website address will be mailed to the board.

Finance Report -Dianne said there had been a compilation made of the finances by Randy Walker & Co. The compilation allows a thorough review of the finances. We do not need an audit because the church has no debt.

Valerie said there had been some additional reviews and safety policies implemented.

Jeff said June was above the budget in collections by \$37k. The Finance Department attributed it to Jason's letter being sent out to the congregation reminding them not to forget the church this summer. Jason said while he was in prayer, he realized we do not have to have a summer slump. He has also been sending notes of appreciation to new givers.

The Communication department went over budget due to work being done in the sound booth. There was a savings in Maintenance and Plate Cash was higher indicating new people. We are replacing the households who are no longer in the church with new families. 5 of the 7 months of 2023 have been better than 2022. The boiler was down for maintenance in the month of June, and this may have helped the natural gas portion of the utilities to be less than usual.

July receipts closed under budgeted plan by \$13k, but the year-to-date total receipts are above plan by \$26k.

Electric costs are more efficient because we now have improved building automation system that allows for precise zones. Two rooms make up a zone and Kacey is better able to manage the HVAC usage.

The CLC worship team was able to get volunteers for the staff that was out this summer, reducing the cost of musicians.

Valerie said the trustees suggested we review our money market accounts against potential higher interest accounts. A higher interest rate return 90-day CD was opened to hold some of our money market funds. She had a resolution suggesting her and Jason become authorized signers for the new account that Dianne Dorsett moved to approve, and Dan St. Romain seconded. David asked if all were in favor and the board was in favor with no objections.

SPRC – Carol said a graphic designer named; Angelina Vannicola has been hired to work in communications since Sarah Smith is leaving in September.

She also gave an update on the weekday school. They are now staying open later and their enrollment is full.

David feels the school is a pipeline for church growth. Jason is involved in the school doing chapel weekly. He and Linda did a blessing of the hands for the teachers and anointed their hands as part of the ministry of the church. The school staff were guests of the church staff who prepared the food and served the school staff. Jason also attended the parent orientation.

Pastor's Remarks-It has been one-year since Jason started here. He opened VBS, we hosted the United Methodist Army, and Jason took part in both events. He was very

impressed by the number of churches who sent youth from all over Texas. The Youth Group went on 2 mission trips. They built ramps in San Marcos and taught Vacation Bible School in Freer.

The first question he received was, "How does it feel?" Jason said it is like drinking from a fire hose. The church is always moving forward, and we celebrate the past, as we move out in faith.

Carol asked that we hold the leadership of the Arts for All in prayer as the program begins.

Question and Answer – David opened the floor for questions and Tony Westrich responded with a concern for the Men's Bible study group that meets on Thursdays in room West 104. They have men who are participating in the group by zoom because they are from out of town. He feels the group would grow if the church would advertise it in the bulletin and newsletter. He has spoken with District Superintendent, Robert Ortiz about the group being promoted in the Rio Texas Conference. What can be done to grow the group?

Jason thanked Tony for his comments and said he will look into promoting the classes and Sunday School classes.

Roger asked Jason to be in prayer next Wednesday for Tony. He also mentioned he had been in 2 zoom meetings recently through the church and the zoom was adequate and helpful.

Dan St. Romain asked Tony what is the problem? Tony said the zoom is freezing. The bandwidth is not adequate. They don't want money to be a problem. Members of the Bible study have given money specifically for the zoom equipment.

Dan St. Romain responded that communication is the key.

David said his wife, Vickie has complained about the church bulletin because it doesn't show what is happening at the church.

Linda said the vision is different.

Chairs Comments -In June, David asked the board to share what their dream is for the church. Steve said it is for God to help the church have a tithing plan.

Dan said there is a community disconnect with youth and adults and he would like to see that improve. There is a broader issue with the world.

Tony wondered why we have greeters and feels the ushers are not doing their job of welcoming people.

Helen wants the membership rolls to be cleaned up. Valerie said this is being worked on by volunteer, Lisa Warren.

Donna shared the fiftieth anniversary of Lunch Bunch is coming up on September 28th. About 70-100 more people could be served and would like to find a way to get the word out to apartment complexes, the Forum, and Juniper Retirement Community. She said anyone can attend and you do not need to be up in years. Most people who attend are not members of the church but come from the community.

Dianne would like to see the growth in members continue especially young families.

Dan said the kingdom of God unites instead of looking at our differences.

Johnny wants the church to be a place young fathers can bring their families.

David said we should be like young children who view every day as a new day.

Prayer Linda closed the meeting in prayer for Tony and all in attendance gathered around him.