

Board of Stewards Minutes-November 16, 2023

Board members present: Steve Waters, Roger Lind, Dianne Dorsett, Doran Dennis, Brian Griffin, Charles Johnson, Brian Nash, Jack Rodgers, Amy Willcox

Members present by zoom: David Kinder, Dan St. Romain

Absent: Carol Cauley, Johnny Boyd, Scott Boynton, Pat Crump,

Staff members present: Jason Adams, Donna Strieb, Valerie Slade, Jeff Guillory, Janet Weatherston, Ryan Jacobson,

Staff members present by zoom: None.

Staff members absent: Darrell Smith, Linda Baumheckel, Chris Estus

Secretary: Leah Jayne

Church Members visiting: Ginger Brewer and Linda Howe

Welcome- David opened the meeting at 5:30 pm with a warm welcome.

Prayer-David asked Donna Strieb to say a prayer.

Approval of October Minutes- David asked if there were any changes or corrections needed to the October minutes. Dianne moved to approve the minutes and seconded. David asked all in favor, a unanimous aye was heard.

Finance Report- Dianne said the Finance Committee was given a high-level overview of the current-status of the ground lease under consideration. This will be covered by Steve Waters from the Trustees Committee.

They reviewed the proposed 2024 operating budget, and it will not be finalized until after the first of the year when the final numbers from giving and the pledge giving will be known.

The committee will request a 4% gift from the available funds of the Foundation which would total \$229,348. Last year, the gift was a 7% distribution of \$402,250. This request will be considered by the Foundation at its December meeting.

Dianne said the Foundation exists to support the church. Without the Foundation's funding over the last three years, programs and staffing would have to have been cut or eliminated.

This was Dianne's last report on behalf of the Finance Committee as her term ends at the on December 31, 2023. She said it has been her great pleasure to serve as a member of the Finance Committee and Board of Stewards.

Jeff opened with the news that October was a good month financially. The revenue received was \$19,943 over the budgeted amount and the disbursements was \$24,905 under what was budgeted. The year-to-date difference is \$56k above budgeted total receipts.

October ended with a net surplus of \$27k. This changes the total deficit for the year to -\$153k. The deficit budgeted for the end of the year is -\$145k which shows we are in an even better position to reach our goal with two months remaining.

A more detailed finance report is available with the minutes.

Trustees Report- Steve shared news regarding the ground lease. The interested group could not get the financing needed and several other problems halted the negotiation on the property.

The property insurance is no longer being carried through the conference, or by Church Mutual so we had to start looking for our own coverage. Charley Hollimon with Marsh Wortham Brokers will go to market tomorrow and there is a good chance we will have coverage. The cost will be higher than before in the re-insurance market. The campus is valued at approximately \$26 million.

Senior Pastor's Comments- Jason continued to encourage the board to be a kinder and gentler. He mentioned the Capital Campaign and some of the areas that need improvements. The choir loft needs to be ADA compliant and areas in the Sanctuary also need to be brought up to ADA standards.

On December 2, we will be hosting an annual conference for the district because we are now the largest church in the conference. There will be 10 churches disaffiliating before December 31st. After the charge conference, guest speaker Matt Myofski will speak. And Bishop Laura Merrill will lead a worship service.

We will have our charge conference on Sunday, January 7, 2024, in the Sanctuary at 12:30 pm.

Jack asked if the disaffiliating was finished. Jason said it would be over at the end of December, but the bishop will help any who still want to leave. Hopefully, we can get back to being the Church soon.

Question and Answer Time- David shared information he had read in the Journal of Psychology about the benefits of counting blessings instead of burdens. In the sample group, gratitude attitudes made the person feel better and more optimistic. He

encouraged the board to take a moment on Thanksgiving to think about our blessings and give thanks. He shared a prayer from the movie 7 Days in Utopia.

"For food in a world where many walk in hunger, for faith in a world where many walk in fear, for friends in a world where many walk alone, we give you thanks oh Lord."

David also thanked Scott Boynton and Dianne Dorsett for their excellent service to the church and board during their terms.

Ryan closed the meeting with prayer at 5:56 p.m.

Next meeting will be January 18, 2024, at the new time 5:00 pm in W100.