

Church Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Present: Dagne Assefa, Brian Bither, Bob Love, Cheryl Martin, Jeanne Smucker, Jim Martin, Jim Showalter, Joann Buerge, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Phil Shenk, Rod Maust

Rod opened with the reading of Colossians 3:12-17.

Ministry Reports

Pastor Elder Team—Cheryl Martin

Brian's evaluation is commencing. He doesn't have a formal job description and this sometimes raises issues of what his priorities should be. It was decided to postpone a job description until the transition time has started so that roles/tasks can be clarified with the transitional pastor.

Should the church retreat fall under pastor/elder responsibilities? It seems wise to continue having the PE team carry this responsibility. It can be an opportunity for nurturing of the church community. The planning may be delegated to others. Jim Showalter will reserve Nov 5, 2016 for next year at Jameson Camp.

Adult Education—No report

Buildings and Grounds—Jim Showalter

There is a list of tasks to be completed. Work day is scheduled for Nov 21. The front hedges will be removed, having received feedback from the congregation. The custodian is on leave because of a broken leg so temporary service has been obtained for the interim.

There was discussion of the need for a campus plan. Creation Care has obtained grants for trees but it's unclear how this fits in the larger picture of goals. Marilyn Teel will be invited to the next council meeting to talk about the vision of Creation Care.

Child and Youth Ministry—No report

Fellowship—Jim Martin

Group is working on the Christmas banquet and program. Fellowship Ministry would find it helpful to be informed early in the process if their services are needed for church events.

Outreach/Welcoming—Phil Shenk

They have worked at priorities. Hope to work on cross cultural/race relationships, strengthen neighborhood connections, use asset based perspectives, explore closer connections with IndyCAN (Indianapolis Congregational Action Network). Will use this next year to consider formal membership for Shalom in IndyCAN.

Worship—Kristen Metzler-Wilson

Will be exploring how to keep pastoral connections with worship planning as Dagne retires.

Treasurer—Bob Love

Bob prepared a tentative budget after receiving feedback from ministry chairs. This was reviewed and suggestions/changes were offered. There is some uncertainty in the Pastor budget because the Transitional Pastor position has not yet been finalized. Bob will prepare the final budget for the congregational meeting on Dec 6.

Shalom has been blessed to have a surplus of funds over expenses. It was suggested that the congregation review how some of these funds might be dispersed. Because of other agenda that Shalom is facing as the transition time approaches, action on this will be postponed but remain a future task.

Transitional Pastor Search Update—Rod Maust

Anne Lehman and Abri Houser have been part of the search committee which has met with a potential candidate and continues to be in conversation. Council was asked for discernment on transitional guidelines and after lengthy discussion reached agreement for next steps.

Next meeting—Wednesday, Dec 2, 7pm if necessary