Collegiate United Methodist Church / Wesley Foundation

Finance Committee

Minutes of December 19, 2023

Members Present: Jeff Elver (Chair), Mary Bellon, Brian Brand, Jane Jacobson, Jason Janssen, Lori Kappmeyer, Nathan Kerns, Patty King, Dean Phillips

Members Absent: Andrew Bolstad, Noah Jean, Ken Kruempel, Max Morris, Chris Strawhacker, Ted Wolff

**Call to Order** (Jeff)

Chair Jeff Elver called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked Pastor Mary Bellon to open with a prayer. This meeting was held live in the Bob Farr Room as well as on Zoom.

The group reviewed the minutes from the November 21 meeting and found nothing to correct.

*Jane Jacobson moved to approve the minutes of the 11/21/2023 meeting, Patty King seconded it, and the motion passed.*

**November 2023 Financial Report** (Jason)

Jason Janssen pointed out that in the financial report he e-mailed to the group, the last page should be the third page. He observed that we are in a strong position on the offering, which was at 91% of the budgeted amount. This hasn’t happened in years, and we need just $26,000 to fulfill the total offering expected in the budget. Total revenues are at 95%.

Under Expenses, Property is just a little below the budgeted amount, despite increased insurance costs. Only 50% of the budget for Programming has been used. The budget is $102,000 net ahead, but would be -$28,000 without the ERC funds. The -$28,000 is still good compared with other years. People have sent in extra money in November. Pre-paid pledges will be applied to the correct accounts.

Jeff said he thought we would be at $92,000. We are not expecting a big expense in December to mess this up. Doug has done a lot to help with utility bills. Jane asked when to put a report in *The Communicator*. This could be celebrated in January along with a thanks for budget help. Jeff said it feels like Christmas.

*Lori Kappmeyer moved to approve the November 2023 Financial Report, Brian Brand seconded the motion, and the motion passed.*

**Preliminary Generosity Sunday Pledge Results** (Jason)

Jason reported that 214 households were contacted, and so far 115 pledges have been collected, around 50%. Fifteen used the QR code to make their pledge. Fifty-seven increased their giving, 8 decreased (due to circumstances that made sense), and 48 remained the same. The pledges so far amounted to $523,456, compared with $536,758 for 2023 at this time last year. Those who have not yet turned in Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards could account for another $94,060, which is what they pledged for 2023. The amount pledged by those who turn in cards will go in the budget on line 1-40010, Estimate of Giving.

There is a group who donate by electronic funds transfer (EFT). They usually don’t turn in cards and just leave their donations the same. Last year $33,100 was donated by EFT, and Jason anticipates $25,480 from the EFT group (with no EOG card) for next year. The amount anticipated from those who don’t turn in cards will go in the budget on line 1-40011, Member/constituent gifts (no EOG). All funds from those who turn in EOG cards go in line 1-40010, EOG, even if the funds are withdrawn by EFT.

Jason hopes to collect 80% of what was pledged in 2023 but not yet pledged for 2024. He sent an e-mail reminder already and will have another letter go to those who have not yet responded. He feels the results are encouraging.

**2024 Budget** (Jason)

Jason reported that he has received information on all the big expense items in the budget. Finance will need $10,000 to cover the financial reviews for 2022 and 2023. Changes in the Personnel budget are due to Jason’s salary increase, funding Lewis Cox for a full year, and moving music services from Personnel to Worship, to be paid for each performance. Conference apportionments will go up $2200, due to disaffiliated churches affecting the conference budget. Property had a large increase due to the rise in insurance costs. Programming will remain the same or be reduced, except for Music, which moved from Personnel. Office operation costs are up a little due to postage increases. Overall, anticipated 2024 expenses will be up $60,000 more than the prior year due to budget requests.

Incomewise, Jason figured on what was pledged plus 80% of what is not yet pledged from last year. He anticipated $598,000 plus a 4% increase value, for $622,000 in the EOG line item. He could leave the No EOG line to be the same as last year, $55,000. The plate offering line, 1-40040, is cash not put in an envelope, so is not credited to a person, and this is going down.

Other income will be mostly the same as last year. Interest is going up almost $20,000 due to Dean Phillips’ research. Line 1-40300, Faith Income, is for people who suddenly provide an extra gift for no reason, subject to Jason’s discretion/opinion, and Jason decided to bump this up. Recurring gifts go in line 1-40011, No EOG.

In 2022, $90,000 needed to be pulled from restricted funds. Jason is anticipating a deficit of $52,759 for 2024. He said this budget looks sustainable and he is optimistic that expenses could be covered. There is a little more use of enduring gifts, but not a lot. The income is as good as Jason can project it, so how long should we delay approval of the budget?

Dean Phillips suggested lowering the No EOG line, and Brian Brand said to cut it by $10,000 to become $45,000, making the deficit -$62,759. Patty King said we could make a revised budget in February if needed. The Wesley Foundation budget issues need to be addressed in the future.

*Patty King moved to approve the 2024 budget with these amounts: Revenue--$739,600; Expenses--$839,109; Deficit-- -$62,769 (to come from Balance Forward). Jane Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.*

Mary said Church Council moved to the last Monday in January, so we can review the budget again before they see it. The expenses shouldn’t change.

**Action item:** Jeff will tell the chairs that their budgets were approved.

**Other Business**

Patty said that due to open rooms on the third floor of the Annex, the Annex might have less income.

People leaving the committee in January are Nathan Kerns and Max Morris. Jeff thanked them for their service.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. after a prayer from Pastor Mary.

The next meeting will be January 16, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Kappmeyer