

Excelsior United Methodist Church
Leadership Team
May Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2022

Attending: Brooke Heerwald Steiner, John Peichel, Jill Jewell, Jim Lee, Kaitlin Holm, Tyler Cronk, John Fischer (Virtual), Ann Marsh (Virtual), Phil Pulitzer (Virtual)

Communication – Jill

The attendees discussed the virtual church conference which took place on a Tuesday evening via Zoom. Approximately 19 people attended with most being leadership team members or spouses of leadership team members. Group agreed next time to do a virtual and in person meeting after church on a Sunday.

Team reviewed the April meeting minutes and made one spelling correction.

Trustees – John and Jim

John Fischer reviewed Building Committee update provided by Lynn Hughes.

Highlights:

- Start date will be June 6.
- Plan to have a weekly announcement at church with update on construction details.
- Some furniture has been ordered for sanctuary and lobby/café and will arrive in early 2021 or by the end of 2022.
- Connie Kurtz is selling many items/furniture from church to make space for the remodel.
- Bridge loan should be completed by June 1st with Bridgewater Bank.
- Major task in the next 1-2 weeks is to clear out rooms in preparation for construction. Watch for communication where help is needed.

Team discussed posting building updates on the church website under the Capital Campaign tab (renaming it “Building Project”) to make sure congregants have access to construction information.

During some parts of the construction, congregants will need to make an appointment to come inside the church because we’ll lose access to the front door. On Sundays, Langer Construction will provide access to the sanctuary and elevator.

Jim Lee provided Steve Colby’s Trustees report.

Highlights:

- Steve will work with an electrician to add 5 outlets and 5 ethernet lines to the new office area.
- He is getting quotes on an LED screen for the sanctuary.
- He worked on placing mulch and adding hosta plants to the landscaping.
- He replaced the rainbow flag.

Team discussed if utilities will be available during construction. We assume all will be accessible.

John reported they plan to have two service events this summer. On, Sat, June 18th volunteers will weed and clean up litter around the building. Also, sometime in July, Jesse Nelson will coordinate a time to paint the annex.

Jim discussed the Sunday closers schedule. He and John will work with the office to get reminder emails sent to closers and a process for them to switch shifts, if needed.

Playground – Brooke

Sarah Nelson and Bill Lester are waiting to hear if we have been awarded grant funding. They are progressing setting up a non-profit so funds can be sent to it instead of the church.

Finance/Stewardship Update – reported by Tyler Cronk

Beverly likes the new job. She is added as signer to the Bridgewater account and has online access.

April financials are not fully complete but Tyler reported that we are tracking at an excess. Income over budget and expenses under budget.

Capital fund balance is \$711k as of mid-May after purchasing chairs, and other sanctuary items.

Julie will do training with Tyler and review Quickbooks and reports in mid-June.

Kaitlin noted that we often run under budget at this time of the year. She estimates we may have a deficit budget this year because we won't be under budget because of staffing (like last year) and some people gave over their pledge amounts in 2021. She thinks this may not happen this year.

Kaitlin reported she and Nate did a communication to families who have pledged to the capital campaign but have not given any money yet. They are available if any person needs help to set up recurring giving online.

Ministry Teams – report by Ann Marsh.

Heads of all ministries had a meeting around mid-May that was well attended. Teams reported they are nervous about getting enough volunteers for all their events/ministries. All teams continue to meet either virtually or in person.

Leadership team discussed how do we communicate to the congregation all the exciting things that are going on in our ministries.

Also, noted was there will be no community lunch during construction and the Wednesday ICA food give aways will be handled out of the annex.

VBS will be held in the church basement this summer from August 1-4 from 5:30 – 8 PM

Brooke reported that with our partnership with Common Hope, we need to do 2 activities per year. We did our Easter 2022 offering but need one more. One idea is a possible run/walk with a goal to raise \$2,000. This could be done by congregants virtually or in-person at a fall event (maybe September). Leadership team supported this idea so Brooke will promote in the connection cards to find some volunteers to head up the event.

Brooke also reported that in his exit interview, Jordan reported that the Outreach team is tapped out and cannot coordinate additional events/ministries. She suggested we look into training to help our leaders recruit volunteers.

Leadership Team – report by John Peichel

John suggested that at our August 4th leadership team event we talk about volunteering. Maybe we can find a resource to right-size out volunteering appetite. We can also do an inventory of our ministry groups, look at how many resources (people/hours) we are directing to the different ministries to evaluate if they are meaningful.

Brooke reported that the staff will meet August 5th so our team will need to tell Brooke of any church goals that staff will help to implement. Staff will set their own goals for their areas.

Pastor Report – report by Brooke.

Brooke will meet with all staff before her leave. Her leave is from June 20 – July 21. She is almost done getting plans in place prior to her leave. During her leave, pastors in other congregations (Mtka/EP), Helen McEvoy Freese, and Judy Myers have agreed to handle any pastoral care.

Congregational care – Kristie has been helping Brooke with congregational care and is helping to coordinate other church members to support members who are shut-in or with limited mobility.

Brooke reported one of the challenges for the next year will be in youth ministry. Our 7-8th grade classes are very small (1 or 2 people in each group). She is thinking of holding off on a confirmation class for a few years so it will be a larger group. She is talking to families about this option.

Brooke reported that she was hoping to get an update at annual conference (May 24-25) to find out approximately how many churches will leave to the new conservative denomination. She hopes to have Kristie Lester do an annual conference announcement at church on Sun, June 5th

Next Meetings:

June 23rd meeting 6:30 PM - all virtual

July– no meeting

Monday, August 8 – 4-8 PM at Bill and Kristie Lester’s house 28265 Boulder Circle, Excelsior

Respectfully submitted.

Jill Jewell