

Colonial Church in Prairie Village

Council Minutes

December 20, 2020

Attending: Bill Sanderson, Ken Werne, Elizabeth Uppman, Brook Carson, Stacey Algren, Harry Morrison, Marylee Battaglia, Cindy Burgdorfer, Bob Burgdorfer, Heather Brasel, Kate Nicolai, Kelly Hansen, Aaron Roberts, Julie Luttmann, Allan Weil, Russ Townsley.

Due to social distancing policies in force in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held utilizing Zoom. Bill opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Two agenda items, 2021 Goals/Priorities and appointing a Nominating Committee are being moved to our January meetings.

Bill noted a generous gift from the Garden Club to maintain the gardens at Colonial in the future. The club, which is disbanding, created and maintained several gardens for many years, adding color and beauty to both the church and our community.

Minutes -- The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report -- The financial report for the month of November reflected total pledge receipts of \$23,769 and total receipts just slightly more at \$23,948 both of which are less than the budget and the prior year. Total disbursements for the month were \$30,715 resulting in a deficit for the month of \$6,768 compared to a budget deficit of \$9,549. Other than normal monthly operating expenses, disbursements for November included \$550 for the purchase of an air purifier for the Heritage room, \$213 for a plumbing repair and \$750 for inspection and tuning of the organ. The boards spent \$5,100 less than budget. The year-to-date report for the eleven months ended November 30, 2020 reflected total receipts of \$390,360 compared to \$398,945 for the budget and \$390,881 for 2019. Year to date disbursements for the eleven months were \$361,660 or about \$30,200 less than budget, resulting net operating surplus as of November 30, 2020 was \$28,700 compared to a surplus of \$7,077 for the budget.

Designated Fund activity for November included donations of \$800 and a transfer of \$1,175 from Memorials for meals for Artists Helping the Homeless, donations of \$125 to the Christmas fund and donations of \$175 for Cross-Lines. Prepaid 2021 pledges of \$9,125 were received. Disbursements included \$1,636 for meals and hand warmers for Artists Helping the Homeless, \$1,045 for the Advent supplies and mailing costs, \$8,117 for costs associated with the current video project drawing upon funds from the Pemberton Charitable Foundation gifts from 2019 and \$8,000 for consulting fees to Mark Holland for October and November. The only changes in fund balances were donations of \$252 to the Memorials fund and a transfer of \$1,175 from Memorials at the request of the family to meals for Artists Helping the Homeless. Investment income of \$1,311 was added to the various endowment funds. There were no changes in Investments in November other than the reinvestment of earnings for November. Financial reports are on file with the treasurer.

Allan projected a surplus for 2020 of about \$13,000 during the ensuing discussion.

Aaron's Report – Michelle Turpen will be stepping down as Youth Group leader after a couple stints in which she helped create and energized a program that engaged our youth in meaningful ways.

Aaron also opened an ongoing conversation on church after COVID, noting that national projections are for in-person worship attendance to be 30%-40% less than before the pandemic. While many like the fellowship of in-person services, the virtual experience has proven to be accessible more

December 20, 2020

often and more convenient. Before the pandemic, Colonial's attendance was almost evenly split between the two services and online.

Board Reports

Property Management – Jim had distributed a report to the Council indicating Foundation Recovery Systems would begin waterproofing walls and installing an under floor gutter and sump pump system in the lower level of the south building on January 5/6. Funding to restore the dry wall in the nursery has been included.

A handrail has been added by the step leading from the altar. Plans are to modify the front garden in Spring 2021 to require less maintenance.

CMD – Elizabeth explained the Board is considering devoting more of their budget to Facebook and other alternatives rather than the new “story format” of the Shawnee Mission Post.

Stewardship – Kelly and Allan gave a quick update on the pledge campaign. Currently, 122 pledges have been received for \$365,000 with another \$29,000 expected. Given the situation with COVID, this reflects a strong commitment to Colonial.

YMCA Learning – Bill reported the YMCA Learning Center ended Friday because CARES Act funding ends December 31. Marylee noted that our space has been made available to them through March 22 should the need arise. Bill reported comments from the Y and parents that Colonial was the most welcoming and accommodating of the locations used.

New Business

Mark Holland Proposal – Mark Holland joined the meeting and reviewed a proposal to continue his work with Colonial for 3 more months during which he would (1) provide community pastoral care, (2) assist with training and fine-tuning of the recently installed AV equipment and (3) lead a project to explore a capital campaign. The latter would include an update on membership attitudes and vision. If membership interest warrants, a feasibility study would be made to gauge the level of investment in light of COVID and other considerations. He then answered questions and shared insights on successful campaigns. Discussion included an appreciation for both the need for pastoral care assistance and the job Mark has done, the process involved in the capital campaign study and the possible timing. The input will be considered by the Administrative Board.

Holiday Plans - Aaron reviewed the plans for virtual services over the holidays. He will take some time off after Christmas with Janet Weiblen handing member pastoral care calls.

Budget Meeting – The budget meeting will be Saturday, January 9, at 10:00 am via Zoom.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm

Russ Townsley, Clerk