

**Colonial Church in Prairie Village
Council Minutes
November 15, 2020**

Attending: Bill Sanderson, Ken Werne, Elizabeth Uppman, Jim Cook, Brook Carson, Stacey Algren, Harry Morrison, Marylee Battaglia, Cindy Burgdorfer, Bob Burgdorfer, Martha Wofford, Heather Brazel, Kate Nicolai, Mary Penrose, 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.

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

Treasurer's Report -- The financial report for the month of October reflected total pledge receipts of \$19,678 and total receipts at \$19,849 which are both significantly less than budget and slightly less than 2019. Total disbursements for the month were \$35,049 resulting in a deficit for the month of \$15,200 compared to a budget deficit of \$11,388. Other than normal monthly operating expenses, disbursements for October included \$218 for a new banner promoting live on line worship, \$434 for extra grounds maintenance, \$630 for six month service agreement on furnace and air conditioning systems, \$316 for furnace repair, \$650 for plumbing repairs and \$4,000 to remove a dead oak tree and some other tree trimming. The year-to-date report as of October 31 reflected total receipts of \$366,412 compared to \$372,695 for the budget and \$361,985 for 2019. Total disbursements for the ten months were \$330,945 or about \$25,100 less than budget resulting in a net operating surplus as of October 31, 2020 of \$35,467 which compares favorably to a budgeted surplus of \$16,626. Most board expenditures were less than or within budget.

Designated Fund activity for October included additional donations of \$700 for Neighbors In Need bringing the total for the year to \$1,030, a donation of \$100 for Artists Helping the Homeless meals and donations of \$225 for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference provided a grant of \$1,500 for an update to the video project and a check for \$15,725 was received from the U S Treasury from a special payroll tax credit. This Federal credit allows funding of the payments to Mark Holland. Disbursements included \$430 for meals and hand warmers for Artists Helping the Homeless and \$4,000 to Crosslines for 200 \$20 gift cards to be given to families in lieu of Colonial's help with the Christmas store.

Changes in fund balances included donations of \$270 to Memorials and the addition of \$354 of investment income to the various endowment funds. A disbursement of \$1,983 was made from Outreach Endowment interest for El Filon teacher salary and retirement for October, November, and December. Changes in investments other than the reinvestment of earnings included a transfer of \$20,000 from the Vanguard money market to the Operating Fund checking account and the renewal of two CD's at CrossFirst Bank for an additional nine months at .85%. A spendable portion of the Outreach Endowment CD (\$10,183) was moved to the CrossFirst money market where it is available for disbursement at the recommendation of the Board of Outreach.

Board chairs were reminded to have their budget request worksheets completed for discussion at the December Council meeting. Financial reports are on file with the treasurer.

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Aaron's Report – Aaron provided a brief recap of the **Pledge Drive** in Kelly's absence. Next Sunday will be Thanksgiving Sunday when the pledge cards are submitted. They are working on a virtual substitute for handing in the cards during the service.

He also explained alternatives for Christmas Eve services are also being explored due to the recent spread of **COVID-19** cases. That led to a discussion on closing the church building to outside groups again. While Colonial wishes to be a blessing to the community, it has a responsibility to lead by example and to protect our staff. After in depth discussion, Harry moved, Elizabeth seconded a motion to close the building for all outside groups except the YMCA alternative classroom and the scheduled Blood Drive. The motion carried without dissent.

Board Reports

Worship – Marylee reported staffing is lined up for 2021 services with the exception of ushers and they could use some more help with communion.

Property Management - The contractor has tentatively scheduled to start the **lower level repairs** following approval of the project at the Special Congregational Meeting on December 6. Jim said he received a notice of changes in insurance upon renewal that included water seepage. He has made a claim and an adjuster will inspect the property this coming week.

Jim also reported he had looked into the HVAC system filtering air flow to reduce COVID spread. He explained that even with a vaccine, the virus will be with us for some time to come. One alternative that appears reasonably priced and effective costs about \$700/unit or around \$6,000 to handle the entire church.

Colonial Women – Marylee reminded the Council of the drive to get soft goods for Savers in lieu of the rummage sale this year.

New Business

Assistant Moderator Vacancy – Valerie Cable submitted her resignation of this position. With the unexpected loss of her husband, there is a good chance she would not be able to serve as Moderator in two years. Bill asked the Council for suggestions for a replacement.

Leadership Development – Bill also discussed the process of identifying candidates to replace Board Chairs retiring in 2021. He asked for suggestions for the Nominating Committee who would explore member interests and work with current Board Chairs to identify candidates. The challenge of attracting younger members to leadership roles in light of family and work demands was discussed.

Mark Holland – Aaron reported the **Video System Upgrades** have been completed and will soon go live once staffing has been identified and trained. In response to a question on issues that appear to be due to lighting, he explained improvement should be seen with the new equipment. If it is not, they will look into the issue. Aaron went on to say that Rev. Holland had been very helpful in handling pastoral calls from our wider community and will now turn to planning for a capital campaign.

Old Business

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Priorities - Bill asked members at the October meeting to think about priorities for the coming year. The robust discussion identified three areas, membership, outreach and worship. The results of the New Horizons program a few years ago seem to be valid today.

The discussion centered on how to fill member needs and maintain member participation during this period of social distancing and in person meetings. The consensus was that small virtual groups would be one way to address both. The challenge of developing relationships with new attendees who we have not met face to face was also discussed. Bill charged the group with formulating plans and maybe creating a couple small virtual groups by the December meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

Russ Townsley, Clerk