

Reports of Committees and Teams of Session

Highlights

Worship and Music

Bill Scott reported that at its February meeting, Pastor Lawrence led opening devotions with a discussion of The Lord's Supper. The committee detailed plans for worship services on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. Depending on local Covid-19 information, Holy Week services might see in-person worship. The committee continued its work to define its goals and objectives for 2021-2022.

Mission and Outreach

Melanie Ziegler reported that the bulk of the M&O meeting involved discussions of expectations and clarifications of assignments for the meeting with Christian Education to discuss cooperation on initiatives of the Journey Outward program. Bill Fisher announced that a visit from Igor Maksakov of our sister church in Russia is planned for April-12 if Covid-19 and government policies allow. OPC's next community meal is Wednesday, March 31, with plans for drive-by pickup and the possibility of delivering meals to those without transportation.

Stewardship and Finance

Nick Fears reported that he is working with the accounting firm to finalize financial reports of 2020. He has transferred financial records to electronic storage in Quickbooks. The Covid-19 Fund is being used to help people in need and the account currently has a healthy balance. 2021 goals were identified to better communicate operations budgets to committees, explore and then educate members regarding avenues of giving, promote the church's Wish List, and facilitate the work of the "Called to Life!" Team.

Christian Education

Representing the Journey Outward Team, Amy Bartel updated the committee on the origin of the group. Discussion ensued about how CE can be involved in this effort as the group moves forward. 40% of the Pentecost offerings were distributed to CE and the committee discussed how to manage that income. It was decided to give the distribution to the Confirmation Class for its decision on how to spend the money on a community project. With other monies available to CE, Jenn Walter is looking into the cost of a van and Emily Lykins is investigating the costs to paint and refurbish the 3rd-5th grades classroom. The youth continue their study of the book, World Changing 101; adults are experiencing together the podcast, "Caring for Creation."

Trustees

The Wish List was discussed. A remote door opening capability for the west side and alley side doors of the Memorial was added to the list. Glass block window replacement on the north and east sides of the Seminary is needed. Replacement of the heating units in the Memorial is being discussed as needed in the near future. The manse rental for 2022-2023 will increase by \$1,000.

Called To Life

Pat Gifford reported that the January congregational retreat, "Engaging in Our Call," resulted in meaningful feedback, committed discernment, and more ideas. Both Call teams, Caring for Creation and Eliminating Systemic Poverty, are reviewing the comments and discussing ways to integrate the calls more fully into the life of the congregation and the community.

Deacons

Karen Shearer opened the meeting with devotions from "When God Winks Back at You." She distributed new handbooks/folders. A Talawanda Schools representative told the Deacons that more middle and high school students have clothing needs than do elementary students and suggested that the church might donate gift cards to TJ Maxx for clothing. The Deacons will discuss this at its next meeting. Partnership with McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital has been very successful in sponsoring blood drives. The Angel report listed 20 visits, 39 cards sent, 24 phone calls made, 2 rides given, and meals prepared for 2 individuals. It was decided that the amount allocated to Kroger shopping for TOPSS would be reduced at this time because recent requests have been primarily for personal care items, which are less expensive than food items. Pastor Marc thanked the Deacons for partnering with the youth group on the highly successful food drive in December.