Skyland Community Church
Minutes of the Council Meeting on November 19th, 2023

Members present: Reverend Melanie, Anne Evans, Gina Adams, Jackie Seymour, Gerald Alonzo, John Conkle, Jeremy Cole, Patricia Wood

John C. opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m.
Opening Prayer: Reverend Patricia Wood
Behavioral Covenant: John Conkle
Approval of the minutes of the October 15, 2023, meeting: Jackie moved to approve, Gerald seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Gerald noted he is reorganizing the way the budgets are presented on page 1 of the Treasurer's report to make them more meaningful.

New Business: John C.

A. Open and Affirming Statement Update - Jackie

- The ONA small group has met three times and have a rough draft of the updated statement.
- As part of the update process, the ONA group did a self-evaluation of the church. Places for improvement include:
  - Being more demonstrative in publicizing that we are Open and Affirming church
  - Being more active in ONA issues
- Following the eventual adoption of the updated statement, Jackie intends to form an ONA Ministry team to address these issues.
- Following the completion of the updated statement, small group meetings made up of members of the congregation will be held to discuss the statement. These will be held three consecutive Sundays in January.
- A vote to adopt the updated statement will be held at the next congregational meeting.
- Rev. Mike Ellard will be preaching next Sunday. He will hold a meeting following church to address and answer questions concerning LGBTQIA issues and concerns. Rev. Melanie suggested that this meeting be funded from the Faith Formation budget.

B. Giving Tree and Pantry Update – Shannon and Patricia Wood

- Shannon explained the increased need for Giving Tree contributions this year is due to the larger number of families and students who are in need. The overall goal for this year is $15,000.
- The pantry has plenty of food but is in need of substitute volunteers.
- Patricia Wood presented a proposal from the dissolving nonprofit Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors. They are requesting that Skyland Community Church accept the MNHN treasury balance as an item in Skyland Church's Missions Budget for the purpose of including Lakeside and Lexington School's struggling families in the Giving Tree Project in the future. After discussion, it was decided that Patricia would work with the Missions team to determine the best way to implement this request.

John C. closed the meeting at 1:58 p.m.
Closing prayer: Rev. Melanie
Next Council Meeting: Sunday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m.
Minutes submitted by John Conkle