

**Congregation Council Meeting**  
**October 22, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order 7:10p.m.**

- A. Attendance:** Mark Binkley, Mark Blower, Rick Doty, Susan Mathieu, Mark Stanziola, Bob Stevens, Pastor Ric Elliott and Pastor Spencer Steele
- B. Excused Absences:** Kathy Everleth, Jeff Hartman (resigned from Council), Dianne Justesen, Chris McGrath, Nina McNally, Molly Olszewski, and Denise Rohrbach. Vicar Tami Reichley was also absent.
- C. Devotions:** Mark Binkley

**II. Approval of minutes from the September 17, 2019 Council meeting**

Minor editorial changes were suggested to sections IV (Finance) and VIII of the draft minutes. **Motion** to accept minutes as amended: by Mark Blower, with a second by Susan Mathieu. Motion **Approved**.

**III. Staff Reports---Pastor Elliott**

- A.** Council went into Executive Session to discuss two personnel issues. Any appropriate Council or congregational action would occur at a later date.
- B.** Attendance at the next Youth Extravaganza in Anaheim, CA was discussed. Pr. Ric moved that Council endorse the use of appropriate Endowment funds to send Pr. Spencer and Amanda Steele to the Extravaganza, at an approximate cost of \$2600 (~\$2100 for Pr. Spencer and ~\$500 for Amanda). Mark Blower seconded the motion. **Approved**.
- C.** Pr. Ric then discussed a handout to Council showing average worship attendance for the years 2010-2019 (YTD). Attendance is essentially flat across that time period, which can be seen as both positive (considering national trends) and negative (considering the ongoing programs to make worship and music meaningful and vibrant).

**IV. Mission Team Reports/Items for Council---Liaisons**

**Church Growth** – The success of the fall event (Trunk or Treat) was noted, both in terms of attendance from the community and the numbers of volunteers supporting the program.

**Finance** – September was a slightly disappointing month financially, with about a \$3,000 net deficit from the monthly plan. Still, year to date we have a surplus and are projecting the elimination of the budgeted deficit for 2019 by the end of the year.

**Property** – The mission team handed out a list of projected project-level maintenance efforts scheduled for 2020-2022. Under that current plan either budgetary increases for facility maintenance or deferral of some planned items to later years would be necessary in 2021 and 2022.

**Youth** – Appreciation was stated for the work of youth and adults at the home of the Schnecks, given the injury to Marian.

## V. **Old Business**

**A. Capital Campaign Update** – About 140 pledges have been received, totaling about \$1.236M, plus there is about \$0.062M to be allocated from available Memorial funds. Responses from 30-35 more pledge units are anticipated. The sense of Council is that the Property Manager should approach the firm providing construction cost information to the congregation to ask about what can reasonably be done with ~\$1.35M consistent with a plan to expand the nave/narthex, recognizing both that work on the top floor is likely to be of higher priority and that some deferral of anticipated work is likely to be required, since the rough figure for the first stage of an expansion project was estimated to cost \$1.6M. Results would hopefully be made available in the reasonably near future to enable further discussion by Council and with the congregation. (During discussion, Council members have expressed a desire to constrain the amount of borrowing of monies, especially monies in excess of about \$250k, preferring to pay for renovation and/or enhancement from available and pledged funds.)

**B. Church Security** – A meeting occurred in early October. The ad hoc group recommended the formation of a Building Emergency Task Force (under the Property Mission Team) to manage progress toward development of a detailed plan considering task priority, cost, and achievability and toward completion of tasks considered high priority, low cost, and reasonably achievable (via Property team budget or Council-authorized supplemental budget). The convenor would be Chris McGrath and the staff liaison would be Chris Carter. A **Motion** to form such a Task Force was made by Mark Blower, with a second by Susan Mathieu. Motion **Approved**. Council suggests that the Task Force formation and intent should be publicized to the congregation.

## VI. **New Business – Pastor Elliott**

Pastor Rick asked that Council members suggest to him, names that the Nominating Committee may wish to consider for three new Council members to be elected at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Preferably they would include two females and one male, as Kathy Everleth, Jeff Hartman (resigned September 2019), and Dianne Justesen are leaving Council at that time.

**VII. Next Steps**

**A. Next Meeting Date:** November 19, 2019

**B. To Do/Assignments:**

**1. Devotions:** Pr. Spencer Steele

**VIII. Motion:** Adjourn meeting at 8:25p by Mark Blower with second by Pr. Ric Elliott. Motion  
**Approved.**

Submitted: Rick Doty, Acting Secretary