

CMCL Church Council Agenda

7:00, June 12, 2022 (Zoom)

Present: Pauline, Carol, Mike, Margaret, Drew, Marian, Leslie, Cal

Absent: Ken (whose comments via email were seen by all)

Guests: Larry Groff, Marty Kelley, Jeff Hawkes, Deb Napolitan

Opening: Pauline - reflections on peace

1. Approval of May Minutes - Drew moves to approve. Carol seconds. All in favor. May minutes approved.
2. Staff Reports - Sent out today. Leslie highlighted help from many in the office. Office hours MWF for the time being. Clarification on June 26's service was offered.
3. Financial Report - Giving was down for May. We are about \$52,000 behind this time last year. \$18k was deposited on June 2. Expenses have been down. Income as of May was 68% of budget. So YTD, we are still in the black. Even if that changes, we have reserves. However, there will be implications for next year's budget...
ACTION: Marian moves to approve, Pauline seconds. All approve. May financial report approved.
4. Finance Committee Brings Budget - Larry helped us make sense of the big spreadsheet detailing next year's requests from various committees. **ACTION:** Marian moves to approve this and Pauline seconds. All approve. This can be brought to the congregation.
5. Mask Protocol/Summer services - we are aware that some are avoiding services due to masking. We reiterate that the purpose of it is to protect the younger kids in our congregation who are not able to be vaccinated yet.
6. July: meet via zoom? In person? - see #14
7. Grant Street update - email was sent out earlier this week.
8. Green cemetery update - \$400 have been donated so far.
9. Facility Use Request (James Reist, 2023) - Katy Heinzl's son James (former CMCLer) would like to use our building for a Pennsylvania wedding reception in 2023. We agree this is fine with the caveat that in the event of a COVID surge, plans may need to be changed. **ACTION:** Margaret moves to approve this request. 2 others seconded. All approve.
10. Dismantling Racism (meets with council) - proposal regarding reparations (goal: 10% of budget). Jeff offered a rousing vision for the racial justice summit being planned for 2023. Deb adds some logistical details - \$\$\$ for a big opening speaker, lunch, childcare, concert, food trucks. Marty shared her passion for reparations, hoping to invite lots of other congregations in this effort. Given potential budget constraints, the current number proposed is less than requested. This is not set in stone and very well could change depending on the congregation's response to the budget in August. We will bring these requests to a congregational meeting.

11. Land acknowledgement (July) - consideration for a displayed statement acknowledging that we worship on land previously inhabited by native Americans.
12. Safe Church Policy (needs review, outside input, council orientation) - the policy was put in place Oct 2017. Needs to be reviewed periodically. It is *17 pages long*. Part of it includes educating counsel about it. Leslie suggested a video from Dove's Nest.
13. Job descriptions/SRC report: approval to move tasks around among job descriptions, move bookkeeping to Parish Resource Center, and reduce office coordinator hours to half-time. **ACTION:** Drew moves to approve that we give PRC the information they need. Mike seconds. All approve, some half-heartedly due to questions around outsourcing bookkeeping.
14. Next Meeting: 7:00 July 11 via Zoom
15. SRC Report - see #13
16. Adjourn - Many voices move to adjourn, we all approve.

Hi Cal,

This is to let you know that I will be missing the Council Meeting this evening, I know this is an important meeting but I have a family event that needs to take priority. I have reviewed the agenda and all attachments. Here are a few of my comments regarding several agenda items.

- I encourage Council to take very seriously the proposals from the Dismantling Racism Committee. With Council support, I am hoping that the congregation can be challenged to rethink our priorities and give strong support to entering into a commitment for ongoing work as outlined by the committee. It will be a challenge to add a new budget line item of 10% of our total budget without significant increased giving and/or reducing expenses somewhere. I would hope most would be from increased giving. Let's keep in mind that budgets do reflect priorities. With that said, I understand that it seems unreasonable to expect this kind of increased giving to occur immediately so I can support the idea of a phased in approach, starting with the new budget year and an annual increase to be built in each year.
- I appreciate the hard work that has already been put into preparation of the draft budget proposal and note that this budget would be a substantial increase over expected giving this current budget year. Having noted that, I am concerned, however, that the Dismantling Racism line item is reduced to only \$9,000 or 1.7% of the total budget. I hope we can increase this line item.
- I do support the idea of establishing a Reparations Fund where members can designate above budget giving.
- Concerning whether for future meetings we meet in person or via zoom, I have mixed thoughts. I think I am comfortable meeting in person, masked if inside, as long as my schedule has me present in Lancaster at the time of the meeting. Since we spend about half of our days in our apartment next to our daughter in Philadelphia, the zoom option gives more flexibility. I will try to work with whatever the rest of the members choose to do.

Regards,
Ken Nissley