

Church Council Minutes, 4/10/23

Present: Marian Good, Drew Brubaker, Larry Groff (for finance), Laurel Martin, Cal Esh, John King, Mike Sharp, Carol Eby-Good, Leslie Homer-Cattell, Marlene Reiff

Opening by Marian – Sharing Richard Rohr meditation

1. Minutes approved for March. Marian moved, Drew seconded; passed
2. Action to accept financial report. Drew moved, Laurel seconded; passed. Larry will be checking into fees for credit cards and will prepare information to encourage most cost effective ways to give.
3. Cal reviewed Council members years remaining on Council for Leadership Selection
4. 23-24 budget – projected expenses – many are similar. Specific discussion about Dismantling Racism Committee suggesting increasing budget by 3% for reparations as opposed to 5% which was their original proposal.
 - a. Michael Sharp motioned that we move forward to change the projection back to 5% for reparations so the congregation can see an actual proposal of what was originally proposed. Carol Eby-Good seconded. A note of this will be made when the tentative budget is shared with the congregation.
5. Reviewed staff reports. Hope seems to be thriving in her role.
6. Reviewed Children and Youth job descriptions. Some minor editing suggested along with a change from indicating first grade Bible Rituals to “rituals” in a more general sense to include all C and Y rituals. Laurel approved, Marian seconded. Passed
7. Pauline Zimmerman will be MCUSA delegate representative along with Leslie and Susan.
8. Michael Sharp will give a review of Council during ACE on April 16. Council member pictures requested.
9. Carol presented Staff Relations Committee’s proposed “Conflict of Interest” policy: John motions we accept, Mike seconds. Passed
10. Reparations: there seems to be high level of congregational support for some kind of reparations fund, but disagreement on some of the details. Identified our role as having a clear concise proposal for congregational meeting in May. Specific clarity needed on how to fund it and on the disbursement committee which seems to be where the majority of the questions lie.
 - a. Leslie reviewed next steps for getting information from congregants about current thinking on reparations. She will send out information to small groups/affinity groups to encourage further discussion. She will include the first survey results (with identifying information removed), the initial proposal, and a link to a second survey with the same questions.
 - b. In one month, we should have congregants’ responses re: projected giving.
 - c. Council worked on draft of a revised draft proposal that aimed to address input/ questions from the congregation (survey and congregational conversations) plus most

recent input from DRC and latest financial info from Treasurer/Finance Committee, including: some funds to go to Native Americans, 5% this year with 1/4 disbursed each quarter, listing name of person to chair disbursement committee, review by congregation in one year and then again in three years. Leslie took notes and she will incorporate these changes and send revised working draft to Council tomorrow.

- d. Cal and Leslie will review this round #2 draft with Marty Kelley to get DRC's input. Leslie will also review highlights with Finance Committee and test it with them.
- e. Council will meet on April 30 at 7:00 pm via zoom to craft a more concise proposal for May 23 congregational meeting.

Dates to remember/things to do:

April 26 – Admin Professionals Day - send a note of thanks to Hope.

April 30, 7:00 pm, Zoom - Council Meeting re Reparations

May 8 – 7:00 pm, Zoom – Monthly Council Meeting

May 21 – Congregational meeting.

Adjourned 9:04 Marian moves to adjourn, Laurel seconds, Passed

Minutes: Marlene Reiff, Leslie Homer-Cattell