

Richfield UMC Ad Board 7/27/21 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Rev Nate Melcher, Rev Hope Hutchison, Nick Dewey, Dan Bur, Gail Johnson, Alicia Owens, Sue Restemayer, Becca Whitaker, Marilyn Dodge, Wayne Johnson, Jerry Schilling, Lisa Oster, Sara Watne.

Members introduced themselves to Dan Bur who joined Ad Board as representative of the Church and Society Team. We read the Behavior Covenant and prayed for the future of our church as we embark on Phase 1 of regathering.

Reviewed minutes from May meeting, amended to read the windows motion was seconded by Sue Restemayer. Minutes approved unanimously as amended.

Action Items

Pastor Nate proposed that Ad Board consider a motion that Ad Board affirm new member John Wittenborg to Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). Wayne moved, Alicia seconded, motion passed.

Pastor Nate offered information on his proposal for video conferencing systems in the Grace Room and the Heritage Room. "Install two state-of-the-art video conferencing systems in the Richfield UMC building to facilitate hybrid meetings, classes, and presentations. These systems would be designed with simplicity in mind so "anyone" can use it, to give in-person and online users a quality experience, and embrace forward-leaning technology. Two installations gives the church flexibility for different room types and for any simultaneous needs." Cost: \$7500. Discussion including questions "Will we let other parties use it? Should we use an "owl"? Do we need a TV that large?" Jerry moved that the Ad Board approve the video conferencing proposal. Gail seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Awareness Items

Trustees: Jerry provided an update on work that has been accomplished recently by various contractors, church members and a group of scouts who have worked hard on landscaping. They removed lots of overgrown and weedy areas. He invited the board to come by and see these changes.

Windows to arrive mid-August and installed shortly after.

Trustees is considering what to do with the old lift: remove the old lift and replace it OR remove it and board up the area, there is a time limit on how long it can stay as-is.

The roof repair should be completed shortly, there was delay in getting construction materials and work time with the busy schedule of contractors.

Other repairs Jerry and trustees are fielding bids for: southeast entrance and water damaged wall at that entrance and balcony- refurbish railing in the courtyard and the bell. Jerry was pleased to find a contractor who would do this work that others would not touch.

Bid in process of redoing surfacing on top deck and lower deck, Marilyn pointed out the need for the surface to be accessible. Jerry said the surface will be smooth concrete, rather than brick that does shift and become uneven with time. Gail wondered if there would be possibility for the lower deck to be fashioned into a labyrinth. She will do some research and share with Jerry.

More upcoming projects: Enhancing lighting of front entranceway. Fascia and soffit repair work. Carpet upstairs needs to be replaced; it can no longer be cleaned.

Jerry would like to talk with the finance committee to sort out funding. Sue offered to call a special gathering for trustees and finance committees, as there is urgency to get these items taken care of.

Finance: Sue provided an update, giving has stayed consistent over the course of the last year, budget is looking good, general operating budget checking account balance is around \$439,000; dedicated checking around \$400,000. PPP loan successfully forgiven with no concern about it needing to be paid back. 66 students in CFC, typical for summer, 2 infants just started and one is on the waitlist.

As of June 30th, 60%, of pledges have been received, which is in line with this time of year, givers are giving on schedule.

Pastors Report

Pastor Nate provided an update on Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI). Key dates coming up: Resourcing Sunday Sept 19, Express Day Oct 14, Report Day Oct 17, Vote Day Nov 21 (official church conference) and has updated the church website with MCCI info. There was some discussion about the mystery/secret worshippers process.

Worship Theme for 2021/2022 is "CONFLUX" which includes seven mini-series: Church is a people, Overture, Nativity now, First things first, Legacy, Unafraid, X marks the spot

The church will be trying a subscription to Amplify Media, which is Cokesbury's "netflix for churches" with curated content that groups or individuals can access for study and discussion.

Regathering update. This Sunday we need ushers and greeters, discussed masking policies, not setting up the Sacred Ground to discourage kids from getting too close to each other, after worship fellowship will be outdoors.

Pastor renewal leave/extended vacation: Likely in 2022 Pastor Nate will be taking maybe a two-week vacation. He and Rev Hope both benefited from reading

Rev Hope provided an update on the 8/21 carnival which will be drive thru style. She plans to do some targeted recruiting emails with sign up genius links.

Pastor Nate has been working hard on cataloguing worship recordings and demonstrated this capability to find music and sermon archives on the website.

Next meeting Tuesday Sept 28th, Devotions to be led by Marilyn Dodge.

Pastor Nate closed the meeting with the Breakthrough prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Watne, Secretary