TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Governing Board Meeting

September 28, 2021

**In Attendance:** Chair Savannah Jewell, Frank Cederquist, Claudia Alenduff, Steven Flowers, Lisa Nielsen, Mary Jo Risk, Pastor Suzanne Clemenz, Pastor Monica McDougal, Ryan Wynkoop, Jason Conner, Kathy Young, Pastor Mack Owings, Emily Spilker, and Pastor Tracey Leslie.

Opening prayer from Tracey.  She also shared an email from Isabel Danz regarding the impact her involvement at Trinity has made on her work in Austin.

**Approval of previous minutes: Savannah motioned → Kathy seconded →  Board approved**

**Caring Ministry (Pastor Suzanne):**

* This past quarter, the Caring Ministry helped 19 individuals with 83 “caring contacts” (calls, visits, transportation). Compassionate presence and listening are a big part of that. Transportation to food banks and doctor appointments, as well as crisis intervention and referrals for mental health services and financial need were also carried out by Pastor Suzanne.
* More people are welcome to get involved - there are several needs that we can help meet.
* Way to go, Caring Ministry! :)

**Charge Conference Updates (Pastor Tracey)**

* Sat. Nov. 6 at 10 am via zoom: required to register, and make sure the zoom link is sent to you after you register. Register soon to avoid problems!

**Parsonage Inspection (Frank)**

* Frank and Jason inspected the parsonage to see what additional maintenance needs to be done.
* Some patio work and basement work may be needed, and the curtains need to be replaced in the coming year, as well as work on the closets.

**Nominations Committee (Pastor Tracey)**

* Emily will be our new finance chair.
* Steve Ash will be our new endowments chair.
* Bob Lilly will be our new staff parish chair.
* We still need chairperson and missions (Mary Jo’s last year is this year)

**Hymnals Update (Pastor Tracey)**

* Noel and Peggy Reen as well as Shirl Harner passed away and were very involved in Trinity’s music ministries.
* Tracey is asking for the board to approve $1,373.75 to be used for The Faith We Sing to purchase 125 hymnals (most recent hymnal supplement) that would come from the $1,540 donation memorials from these three individuals.
* **Ryan motioned for the purchase of 125 hymnals from the memorial money → Claudia seconded → Board approved. The board also approved putting a sticker in each hymnal stating the hymnal is in memory of the three individuals.**

**Stewardship update (Pastor Tracey)**

* (Ryan and Chris) A simplified budget (demonstrating our ministry priorities) will be prepared to distribute to church members during October for Stewardship month.
* (Pastor Monica) Letters with the pledge cards have been sent out and pledge cards will be available at each service as well. Every Friday morning in October there will be a blog post via Eblast, as well as other social media, website, and emails about giving/pledging to Trinity and the giving page.
* During each Sunday in October, during worship, a speaker will provide info on a different area of Trinity and how funding helps those ministries thrive.

**Refugee Families  (Pastor Tracey)**

* From connections in the Interfaith community, Trinity has a contact who was from Afghanistan and her family is still in Afghanistan, and they are at risk of harm from the Taliban. There are 11 people in the two families.
* Ruth Smith, who used to work for Trinity, is looking for funds to help bring this family out of Afghanistan through applications for them to come to the US.
* $2,500 for these families is suggested for Trinity to contribute out of our Missions Fund. It is $575 for each individual to start the paperwork process, but Trinity would not foot the entire amount. Other organizations are also going to contribute.
* $4,780.00 is our current balance for the missions fund and we haven’t spent much for missions this year due to the activity in our Caring Fund.
* **Mary Jo motioned for giving $2,500 for the effort from the Missions Fund and Kathy seconded → board approved**
* The next step would be for a church to start a Go Fund Me page (allow for tax-deductible giving) “for Afghan Refugees” because churches cannot raise money for individuals. Trinity could serve that role. If the applications do not pan out for the two families, then the money can be used to help others through the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help other Afghan refugees. If the board is in agreement on this step, Tracey will double-check with UMC authorities that this process would be okay and Trinity would run the Go Fund Me as the fiscal agent.
* **Ryan motioned for Trinity to run the Go Fund Me page for Afghan Refugees (pending UMC approval)→ Steven seconded → Board approved**

**Missions Committee  (Mary Jo)**

* The Prism Youth Group will be gathering items for cancer chemotherapy patients to create goody bags for them. Pastor Mack will be assisting the youth in assembling these packages with notes of encouragement.
* Currently, we have received donations of water bottles, crossword books, lotion, and tissues. The goal is to create 30 goody bags but there is potential to go beyond that. Ensure nutrition shakes (or glucerna type) are very needed for these patients in particular.

**Trustees (Frank)**

* Bills to be approved from the Building Endowment:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Vendor | Amount | For |
| Link Management | $672.00 | Monthly Property Management Fee September |
| Anderson Heating & Cooling | $842.59 | HVAC Repair |
| Piano Solutions | $524.00 | Piano Bench |
| **Other Bills** |  |  |
| Frank Cederquist | $176.82 | Lawn Mower Service-Parsonage |
|  | $111.53 | Lawn Mower Service-Church |

* **Frank motioned to pay the bills from the building endowment, Ryan seconded → Board Approved**
* Question about the ice machine: For a funeral dinner it was not working, but Claudia wasn’t sure if it was turned on. Pastor Tracey suggests that we consider the upkeep costs since those seem to be building up when we do not use it for a few weeks. Frank said that there has only been one maintenance bill since Frank has been a trustee, and when Kristi was a trustee there were major repairs. The ice machine is used mostly for funeral meals, but not much else. Claudia has been buying bags of ice to use for the funeral meals. Fusion has used leftover ice and has not used the ice machine.
* Steve Ash has submitted the stained glass DNR grant application. We will see later this year if it gets funded.

**Finance (Ryan)**

* The 2022 budget will be more specific to our various missions (like Fusion) to delineate how much each specific mission will have to use. In the October meeting Ryan will have an update on the planned 2022 budget.
* We have had a budget surplus of $80,000 from 2017 onwards. However, we do not have a budget surplus policy for how the surplus can be handled.
* Depending on the decisions to be made at the General Conference, Ryan recommends a “Rainy Day” fund savings account to help Trinity in case of a church split that could require fees for pensions, apportionments, etc.
* At the October board meeting Ryan will present on the exact amount and then we can vote on potential options.
* However, the extra $80,000 should not deter giving since we need to keep in mind that our congregation continues to be able to do all that we already do and one member is responsible for giving $50,000 each year.
* (Kathy) We can consider giving $3,825.00 of the surplus to supplement the $2,500 set aside for the Afghan refugee mission to provide the requested total amount for the eleven people.
* **Kathy motioned to use $2,500 from the Missions Fund and $3,825 from the budget surplus to provide money for the applications for Afghan refugees to come to the US → Mary Jo seconded → Board approved**
* Ryan will still work with Ruth to set up the Go Fund Me account to help raise funds for the process after the applications are accepted.

**Staff Retreat will be held on October 30 - Nov. 2. Lisa Hood will be on pastoral alert in case of pastoral emergencies.** Claudia will cover the church office Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

**The next board meeting will be on Zoom on October 26, 2021 at 6:30pm.**