First UMC Arlington

Church Council Minutes

April 22, 2025

Members Present:

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| Scott Russell | Jo Anna Cardoza | Chris Olson | Cathy Olson | Sean Hale |
| Betsy Spencer | Madison Boboltz | Cathy Carruth | Kay Lancaster | Holly Maxwell |
| Loni Fancher | Tim Graves | CJ Reddig | Betsy Eudy | John Knapp |
| Rob Franz | Chris Hayes | Shawn Dickler | Rich Crosier | Taylor Jackson |
| Nancy Russell | Jim Russell | Sharla Martin | Brian Spencer | Becky Steimle |
| Paul Steimle |  |  |  |  |

1. Welcome/Prayer/Devotional – Holly Hattendorf, Church Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
	1. Chris Hayes opened the meeting in prayer and talked about the restoration and reflection of Holy Week/Easter.
2. Committee Reports
	1. Financial Report – CJ Reddig
		1. CJ explained the two-pronged attempt to increase giving, including a request for a 13th month or 10% increase in pledges.
		2. The church received a significant influx of donations, increasing the checking balance to approximately $267,000, alleviating short-term payroll concerns.
		3. The challenge is to determine whether the influx is due to pledge fulfillment or an actual increase in giving, which affects budgeting for the rest of the year. The zero-spend budget concept is still in place, and the church is tracking cash balances weekly to monitor trends and payroll needs.
		4. Still planning monthly communication via letters to the congregation and a simplified budget or cash flow refection.
		5. A form is being set up for congregation members to submit questions to the Finance Committee, and an FAQ section will be included in monthly letters.
		6. Regularly scheduled finance committee meetings will be published for public attendance; emphasized the importance of transparency and open communication with the congregation.
		7. CJ discussed the interest rates available through TMF, including a proposal to move the balance in a variable account (earns ~ 0.9% interest) to a one-year fixed rate at 4.28%. the Finance Committee agrees with this move, which provide a better return for the bulk of the endowment.
		8. The interest can be pulled off the account if needed, but the committee prefers to review the money prior to summer.
		9. The committee is also considering an audit to ensure the Chart of Accounts is accurate and up to date.
		10. Betsy Eudy highlighted the importance of being responsible with incoming funds, including building reserves and paying back restricted funds. The committee is confident in their financial management and plans to address any deficits in the bank account during the summer.
		11. CJ acknowledged the challenge of incrementally building back the operating budget and keeping the congregation apprised of progress. The committee is still analyzing the data to determine the actual increase in giving and how to budget for the rest of the year.
		12. The committee is exploring ways to fund programming and activities through additional gifts; they’re also considering a rededication of pledges to capture data and assist with budgeting.
	2. Trustees Report – Rich Crosier
3. Chick-Fil-A Summer Lease – Rich told church council about a potential lease agreement between First Church and the CFA on Collins St., pending their response. The agreement involves using three or four rooms upstairs for six to eight weeks, no scheduling conflicts on our end.
4. Trustees has started the process of assessing the value of church-owned properties, including the scout hut and northwest parking lot, in case of financial emergencies. The property assessment is not currently being pursued but is ready if needed.
	1. PPR Report – Rob Franz
		1. Rob announced that District Superintendent, Phillip Rhodes, will be serving as interim pastor beginning Tuesday, April 29. Phillip’s experience with large church is expected to help with finances and other areas.
		2. Announced/confirmed Macy Craft’s departure at the end of May and no final decision has been made on replacing her due to budget constraints; PPR is recommending not to replace Macy at this time, but the situation will be reassessed.
5. Announcement/Upcoming Meetings
	1. Congregational Conversation (May 4, 2025 @ 12 pm)
	2. Upcoming meetings – Tuesday, June 24 Church Council
6. Kay Lancaster provided a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.