

Council Meeting – January 4, 2021

Attendees:

Mary Crawford
Rev Bernard
Rev Thomas
Andrew Cummings
Jourdan Coursen
Eric Braun
Bayard Dodge
Calvin Mew
John Moran
Walter McCullough
Anne Troxell
Dave Lummis
Mary Peniston
Taffy Miller
Bayard Dodge
Shivanthi Edwards

Jourdan read the Covenant and Thomas led us in an opening devotional from Exodus 23 verse 20.

Minutes of last month's meeting along with Walter's amendment were approved and seconded.

Outreach Report

Taffy described the name change to Council (as discussed in a prior meeting). She elaborated on the duties of the board as amended, there were comments from Council members. After much discussion and clarity, Council voted, and it was seconded.

The amendment that was approved by Council to present to the Congregation at the February Annual Meeting was as follows:

ARTICLE XXII - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION (Replaces Article XIV)

There were other changes to the Mission Statement as follows:

- In the first sentence of the Mission statement "do" was replaced with "act";
- At the end of the second sentence of the Mission statement "justice" was added after "social";
- In Section 1d "discretely" was replaced with "discreetly".

Stewardship

Pledges are at 440K (90 pledges), we can probably reach 500K . Last year at this time we were at 123 pledges. We lost some decent size pledges which have brought the figures down. Jourdan admitted part of the challenge has been losing the face to face interaction during the pandemic.

2021 Budget

Andrew has been diligent about controlling expenses, but we do have fixed costs. The current budget is assuming we will be back in the sanctuary by Labor Day.

One of the biggest increases have been insurance premiums which went up by 16%. Walter brought up the idea of applying for another PPP loan, Norfield may qualify.

Trustees still haven't reviewed and approved the budget.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget *subject to review by Trustees*.

Bernard encouraged Council to leave a little room for faith, Mary Peniston praised the good work of those who worked on the budget. The outcome was much brighter than all expected given the unprecedented times.

Administrator's Report

Norfield is closing the books for 2020 and looking ahead at 2021. They are keeping up with day-to-day maintenance.

Annual Meeting

Via Zoom on Sunday Feb 7 at 11 AM ET.

Deacons will work with Teri to review and determine final membership count to establish a quorum.

It is important to reach out to the congregation so sufficient members attend the meeting.

Nominating

Eric will circulate the full draft of board positions by end of this week. All board chairs need to provide a prompt reply to Eric.

Fellowship

The ornament campaign during December went off well, this may be something the board will continue. The nativity drive-thru had to be cancelled due to weather and low participation.

Music

David did a wonderful job during the Christmas season; the board is looking forward to more great music in 2021.

Other

Dave McWilliams wanted to thank the Council for the funds raised during the 50/50 campaign - \$26,350.

Minister's Report

Bernard thanked Council and Staff for all the support during this past year. There has been a fair number of COVID-related deaths, he encouraged us all to keep the families in prayer. Finally, not least of which to hold up our nation in prayer through the transition of power.

Bernard closed us in prayer at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Shivanthi Edwards