

West Side Baptist Church Council Minutes

January 11, 2022

Present via Social Distancing: Pastor Ivan Greuter; Nancy Lindberg; Pat Carpenter; Harry Carpenter; Jack Janway; Brice Smith; Jim Goodnow; Janice Kirby; Brice Smith; Carla Donnelly; Colleen Smith; Chuck Cozad; and Fran Seymour-Hunter.

The meeting was called to order with a prayer following a welcome to all new Council members.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy gave a brief overview of the report documents for new members and how they related to each Council area and the Church financial record overall. In Nancy's summary report, she high-lighted the fact that the Church ended the calendar year in the black with some of that positive balance due to our participation in the Federal Payroll Protection Plan. With each grant that has been awarded, 10% is taken for associated administrative costs. There will be a few adjustments made but the final financial 2021 report will be seen at the Annual Church Meeting later this month. Designated carry-over monies will be noted on the report. There will be separate line designation of amounts in both the "old" and "new" Capital Campaigns. Year-end individual statements are now available to members. The newsletter will provide information about the financial status of the Church. Donation envelopes this year will not have the weekly date printed on them. The Church received a "surprise" donation from a Roberta Cleveland. Attempts will be made to determine her connection to WSBC. New drinking fountain installation will be credited to the "old" Capital Campaign funds. A question was received on Memorial funds and Nancy explained the differences in these designations. Nancy also explained about the % figures on the profit/loss budget sheet for the benefit of the new Council members. She also explained why there might be a fluctuation seen in salaries given that some months have more pay dates than others. Nancy noted that increasing the amount of expected expenditure for utilities has already demonstrated that this was a correct budgetary adjustment given what was already seen in January. A motion was made/seconded/passed to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Minutes: The December minutes were approved as printed with two minor corrections made.

Ministry Reporting

Fellowship/Membership: Carla understands some of the functions she has responsibility for—such as the funeral dinners—but will appreciate assistance in learning of her other duties. Several individuals offered to assist such as helping with the potluck dinner planned for the 30th and learning how to determine the need for/ordering of supplies such as paper products in the kitchen.

Outreach: Jack noted that the Baby Closet is closed for at least two weeks, including drive-up services, due to COVID community spike. He and Rita have now reconciled the accounting figures in his Program area. The food pantry totals surpassed the 2020 figures and the current numbers are steady. He is a member of the Turn-Around-Team and WSBC figures even surpass their numbers for the food give-away. He plans on a food give-away again tomorrow

Personnel: Janice reported that both Ernie and Lynda are not on duty due to COVID protocol. As a result, the office will not be open as usual.

Administration/ Stewardship: Harry provided information on the status of the van. He also noted that Clayton has done some work on the boilers with a need to replace a float in one. Additionally, the cost of utilities has increased with the inflation spikes being experienced.

Worship: Brice noted that Jan Mauck may not be present as an accompanist during the month of January. Janice plans to step in as needed and will play either the piano or the organ as is deemed the best instrumental “fit” for the music. Changes with the way the offerings are being handled may need to be reconsidered. He thanked those who helped with undecorating the Church after Advent. He plans to prepare his usual “Year in Review” video if we are able to hold an in-person meeting.

Christian Education: Colleen reported that WWW was cancelled for two weeks due to recent COVID surge but re-start will be evaluated after that hiatus. She will decide about a CE meeting next week. It is possible meeting could be either cancelled or any business needs done via E-mail communication. Ideas are welcomed for her Program area.

Missions: Jim reported that he has not had a Missions meeting. He plans to communicate with his committee via E-mail as needed. For the time being, no trips are planned for the 5th Friday at Bethel. He was “blown away” by the generosity of the giving with the special offerings in this past year. He will provide congregational information for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Ivan extended an official welcome to the new Council members. He let them know that he routes a monthly report of his activities/hours worked. He was pleased with the Christmas Eve turn-out with 104 individuals participating either in-person or on-line. He has attended several virtual National Committee meetings. He shared a bit about The One Great Hour of Sharing fund disbursement and the 100 grants awarded. He noted a gift of \$500,000 had been received as a special offering at the National level. More ZOOM meetings will be held in 2022 as noted on his monthly report. Planned vacation use is also noted along with the need for pulpit supply. He mentioned in passing that he is encouraged by his recent medical treatments. Pastoral care has been provided recently for individuals diagnosed with COVID. A motion was made/passed/approved to accept the Pastor’s proposed vacation days noted on his monthly report.

Moderator’s Report: Pat indicated she continues to be thankful for the work being done. She also noted that she is available to assist and/or attend meetings as requested.

Old Business: The water fountains have been purchased via two payments made.

New Business: Shawnee County has returned to the Red Zone in terms of the incidence of COVID infections. Recommendations have been made to wear masks and maintain social distancing but buildings are not mandated to be closed. There was much discussion about the actions the Church should be taking during this time. It was decided that members should follow their own conscience in regard to attendance at our activities. The Church had been asked about our willingness to be a vaccine site for the neighborhood. The only requirement for WSBC would be to supply the building space but the needed activities would be done by volunteers/staff. This request was made into a motion which received a second. Via a voice vote, approval was received with one dissent. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer. The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Fran Seymour-Hunter, Church Clerk

