

## West Side Baptist Church Council Minutes

February 8, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order with a prayer by Pastor Ivan.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy provided Council members with three documents. As noted on the summary sheet, our January income was noted as \$18,262.80 and our expenses as \$24,657.96 with the difference being a negative \$6,863.00. The checking account balance is \$96,919.87, the majority of which is the new Capital Campaign amount of \$80,697.07 and Outreach totaling \$11,159.05. The Topeka Community Foundation distribution has not yet been received from the Allbert estate gift. It is anticipated we will receive around \$4,500 from this account (which reflects 5% of the current value). As a reminder, this is a designated gift to underwrite music. As a result, the organist salary, organ/piano maintenance, music resources (line item #8530), and copyright expense (line item #8537) will draw on this distribution amount. Within the report amount for the Benevolence Fund, two expenditures are not yet entered and therefore that fund balance should be \$5,411.25. If there are questions related to the financial reports, please feel free to contact Nancy. Due to questions raised on the balance sheet, item 1010 in the amount of \$1,535 will be credited to the general fund versus that of a Christmas offering. Additionally, item 1025 is the offering amount credited to our "square" and is in a separate account until transferred. As a reminder, other than ongoing expenses (such as utilities), it is expected that the appropriate Council member will approve expenditure prior to payment. Nancy made mention of four line items that she anticipates will reflect over-budgeted amounts. These are #6223 for the office manager health insurance premiums; #6270 organist; #7820 gas; and #7840 trash. Janice is expected to be providing more accompanist activities than budgeted. Both trash and gas bills have increased. Harry added he expects electrical costs to also increase. The insurance premium increase will be discussed under new business.

**Minutes:** The January minutes were approved as printed with one minor correction. Due to a technical glitch, the November minutes were not received. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve these minutes, as well. That motion carried.

### Ministry Reporting

**Fellowship/Membership:** No report was provided.

**Outreach:** Jack noted that we had had a Food Pantry cancellation occur. He plans to apply for another grant opportunity pending Council approval. This grant is specific for "Milk to My Plate". Approval was made into a motion/seconded and passed for this application. Jack also informed the group that he had received information on the April 30<sup>th</sup> ShareFest activity and would like permission to advertise for this event and recruit volunteers. This request was also made into a motion/seconded and passed. It was noted that costs for the Harvesters distribution are varying each time.

**Personnel:** Janice reported that a notice for a nursery worker has been posted. If anyone knows of a candidate for the position, please let them know of the opening. Clarification was sought on the hours

for the position. Assistance is need for Sunday AM and Wednesday PM. There was a brief discussion about the use of volunteers to help with this need.

**Administration/ Stewardship:** Harry stated that the boiler and restroom issues appear to be currently resolved. The property committee has met and thinks that the major projects able to be completed at this time have been taken care of.

**Worship:** Brice noted that the Pastor will be gone on the 27<sup>th</sup> and Art Campbell has agreed to preach on that Sunday. Contact was made by both West Side Christian and Potwin Presbyterian Churches regarding collaboration for Maundy Thursday/Good Friday services. After careful consideration, a recommendation is being made to schedule these events on our own. The Worship Committee continues to meet and is “plugging in” requested hymns on an ongoing basis. Jan plan to return to playing the piano for Church for the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Janice has noticed a click in the organ when playing it so this will be checked out.

**Christian Education:** Colleen reported that WWW will resume tomorrow. There will be a CE meeting next Tuesday to discuss events for the remainder of the year. The Youth will be planning some events for their participation in. We had a well-attended VBS last summer and would like to invite collaboration with the Manhattan Baptist Church to share material costs for VBS this year. A question was asked on where information about our Sunday School offerings can be found on our website. This can currently be found under the “grow” section on the main page. Ivan will review placement and potentially made an adjustment on the web page for ease in accessing the information.

**Missions:** Jim reported that Bethel trips continue to be on hold. In March, the America for Christ offering will be taken. He will out a listing of our global missionary servants so prayers can be specifically offered on their behalf.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Ivan had previously E-mailed his monthly report. It reflects 194 hours of work for the month. He has done coordination for the speakers with the Regional meeting. See his report for additional highlights. He also made special note that his autoimmune disorder is in remission presently.

**Moderator’s Report:** As always, Pat reported she continues to be thankful for the work being done by our Church members. Due to some “sleuthing” on an estate donation. She determined Roberta Cleveland had been baptized here in the 40’s as was her sister.

**Old Business:** None was introduced.

**New Business:** The health premium for Lynda/her husband has significantly increased. Nancy provided information on past expenditures for this line item. Following this discussion, a motion was made to cover \$150 of this premium starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the automatic withdrawal already made for this coverage at the increased rate (above the \$150 amount in the motion), Nancy will reconcile the cost of this coverage. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken with the Pastor abstaining and carried.

Harry discussed the need to develop a security/disaster plan for our Church. Exploration will be made to determine if there are any grants that could be applied for that would assist with meeting this need.

Ivan reported that our active member number of 102 has been reported in our annual report to American Baptist Churches USA. We had 51 individuals in the sanctuary and 45 individuals on line for our last service. As a general rule, it takes 100 members to sustain a full-time pastor.

There is a grant opportunity for older Church building maintenance/repair. This could potentially assist with costs related to our towers/parapets and preservation of our stained glass windows, e.g. Approval via the property committee was requested to apply for this grant. This request was made into a motion. This motion was seconded and then passed. This would be application to the National Fund for Sacred Places.

There was a brief discussion about the wearing of masks within our Church building. As a reminder, we had previously voted to cooperate with the local authorities on their recommendations. This does mean, however, that we are mandating the wearing of masks and are deferring to individual decisions on this practice. It is anticipated that some will continue to wear masks in our setting and some will not.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Fran Seymour-Hunter, Church Clerk