



BOARD MEETING MINUTES 11/17/2022 7 pm

Call to Order

Present: David Wise, Interim Pastor; Gary McGraw, Treasurer; Steve Hershner, President; Kris Davis (Zoom), Lu Wilcox, Marcy Mattison, Sue Davis, & Cate Sheller

Lighting of the Chalice & Reading – Steve

Approval of the minutes from the October board meeting: Sue made the motion, Lu seconded. Approved on voice vote.

I. Staff reports (submitted in advance, added notes below)

A. Administrator

- **Attendance** figures only reflect the number of households viewing worship, not the number of people watching in each home, so not absolutely accurate.
- **Electrical expenses** continue to be significantly lower, but **heating costs (gas) are high**. Thermostat has been set cooler to reduce heating costs, and space heaters (electric) are being used in offices for more comfort.
- Lower temperature is not affecting the **piano's** condition.

B. Minister

- **Safety/accessibility:** Bob Butikofer will install handrails at both sides of the chancel to improve safety and access.
- **Endorsements policy** (non-political): a friend of Peoples has asked the Church to provide a professional endorsement for his/her application to a pastoral program. David shared a letter, *When Considering Ministerial Sponsorship*, from Lisa Presley, MidAmerica Region Congregational Life, that provides relevant insights. The Board will consider and develop a policy and define procedures on endorsements. In the interim, it will defer providing any endorsement(s).

C. Faith Formations

- The nursery is fully-staffed;
- Parents report that their kids are learning and having fun!

D. Social Media

- The online audience is skewing heavily toward women; how to engage men?

E. Treasurer

- Year-to-date **balance sheet** is on track or below budget for the year;
- **Proposed budget:**
 - Anticipates **reduced stewardship** numbers
 - **Cost of ongoing electronics needs** (security, Wi-fi) are higher than anticipated, but necessary for security and efficient online operations.
 - **Deficit increases** to reflect anticipated ongoing expense.
 - **Motion to approved the amended proposed budget:** Cate; second: Sue. Passed on unanimous voice vote. Discussion: These are valid expenses in increasing overall safety and security; it is reasonable to present a deficit budget in this transitional time.

- Upcoming **forum on Endowment** (Rich Patterson) on December 4 will explore the impact of changing economic landscape for Peoples. Key issues: increase membership, re-assess costs;
- Rolling 12-month average offers less dramatic, more accurate information.

II. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Scheduling

- A. **Prep for Congregational Meeting** December 4 after worship.
- Offer FAQ in Voice and eWeekly to get some of the questions in advance; then answered at the meeting (Gary, Steve?)
 - Have a current member roster and quorum number (20%) (Marcy, Kris?)
 - Vote counters for Zoom and in-person (Cate, Steve)
 - Keep comments short during discussion
 - Agenda reviewed, confirmed
 - *"Spending more, doing more!"*
 - Thanks/welcome to staff
- B. **Upcoming regular Board meetings:**
- **December 18 after worship**
 - **January 26, 7 pm.** Gary and Steve absent, and will provide their info in advance
 - **Winter weather policy** is in place: Zoom in inclement weather, and if held in-person, please notify David if not attending in person.

III. Other Business for the Good of the Church

- A. *Is Twitter still valid for our congregation?* Analytics show that it still reaches an demographic Peoples needs to grow, so worthwhile for now.
- B. *Are print ads in the Gazette effective, or should Peoples focus on social media outreach?* By using Facebook to share Events, and supporting groups like the Inter-Religious Council Peoples can still reach new audiences.
- C. **Board action items:**
- **Endorsement P&P:** request input from David and the Search Committee for January meeting and start developing P&P. Notify applicant that Peoples has no policy in place, and therefore Peoples cannot act on the request.
 - **Nominating Committee:**
 - **Seeking member(s);**
 - Asking Board to **update By-laws description of Nom. Com.** to match congregation size: currently 6 members, 2-year terms ('17); 9 -member with 3-year terms ('09); seeking smaller size, modified terms.
 - **Board vote requested to have revisions in place by February.**

Extinguish Chalice/Reading. Steve shared a closing reading.

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Next regular Board meeting: December 18, 12:15 pm at church

Related docs:

Agenda

October 2022 minutes

Interim Minister report

Faith Formations Director report

Congregational Administrator report

Social Media Analytics

Financial reports:

Balance Sheet

Proposed budget (amended)

When Considering Ministerial Sponsorship, from Lisa Presley (MidAmerica Region Office of Congregational Life)