

Rush United Methodist Church
Leadership Committee Meeting Notes
December 16, 2020

Present: Pastor Todd, Tanya Hunt, Lynn Kessler, Lynda Wanzenried, Geoff Furman, Cindy Wallace, Erin Bills, Chris Chamot, Jim Comstock

Guests: Jan Corey, John Kessler

Pastor Todd called the meeting to order with Joys and Concerns and a Prayer.

Pastor Todd read and spoke about “discernment” and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (scripture, tradition, reason and experience). He asked us to consider our call and also to look at who is in our COVID bubble, asking each of us where and what about God has been revealed to us since the beginning of the pandemic. Some answers from committee members:

- How do we help others when we have difficulties being “as one”?
- Things have changed over the past 41 weeks. We have to adjust to changes. We use the information we have at the time.

Pastor Todd asked how the pandemic shaped/changed RUMC and the Methodist Church in general?

- A lot of healing must be done.
- Perhaps we should have a week of celebration that we’re defeating COVID.
- God is with us.

Property Report:

- John Kessler stated that today the final payment was made to Graves for replacing the roof. The total amount we need to borrow from the Endowment Fund is \$48,000.
- Our furnace issues have been resolved.
- John is auditing the swipe cards and keys. He has deactivated about half of the swipe cards.
- A locksmith is coming to work on locks/security system.
- The fire alarm system for PromiseLand has been updated to meet the fire code.

Finance:

- Update for Procedures:
 1. Building and Grounds has changed to the Trustees in regard to credit cards and accounts.
 2. Clarification has been made as to RUMSC’s emergency procedures. A motion to approve the changes was made by Lyn, seconded by Lynda and passed unanimously.

Finance Committee, continued:

- RUMC's 2021 Budget

The church has severe financial issues, resulting in painful changes from the 2020 budget.

The Super Sale may go from \$21,000 to \$8,000.

Pledges for 2021 are about \$30,000 less than last year, which is about a \$12,000 reduction, much of it probably due to COVID and unemployment.

After reviewing the proposed budget, discussion centered on cuts to the Youth Ministries and how to make up the differences.

Chris proposed an amendment and made a motion to make the Youth Ministries and Director of Christian Education's budget equal and reduce the Pastor's salary . The motion was seconded by Geoff.

Vote on the Amendment: Yes: 2 No: 5 Abstention: 1

Vote to accept the budget as presented by the Finance Committee
No: 2 Yes: 5 Abstention: 1

Planning Forward:

- Ten new people have been elected to positions in the church so this is a good time to have a basic leadership orientation meeting. All chair-people from each group will present what their group does. The meeting date has been set for Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

SPRC:

- The Trustees approved Chris to be the head of the Boy Scouts at RUMC.
- Staff Appreciation event????
- Spencer Haynes has applied to be the new Treasurer for the church. He has a degree in Business Administration and comes recommended by Brita. Erin made a motion to approve Spencer as our new Treasurer, Tanya seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Two other motions were made by Lynn and seconded by Lynda and approved:
 1. Changing the date from 2020 to 2021 for the Clergy Housing Exclusion Resolution form allowing \$2,500 of the pastor's gross salary deducted from IRS reporting.
 2. Procedure to submit Accountable Plan Resolution. This is the same plan as before

The next Leadership Meeting will be held on January 9, 2021.

Notes submitted by:

Cindy Wallace