

1. Minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees - February 16, 2021
2. Coronavirus zoom meeting

Members present - Ann Williams, Keith Kallay, James Mate, Patty Fowler, Dennis Matz, Martha Goble, Harriet Wadsworth, Nancy Smekal and Jim Prince

Staff present - Transitional Pastor Rev. Bill Hudson

Jim Prince opened the meeting with prayer.

The January minutes were approved.

Electronic sign - Jim Mate - Jim and Nancy have compiled a list of possible contractors. Brilliant Electric Sign Co. - Nancy found that they did the sign at Cain Park. They also did the sign for Bay United Methodist Church, and they are recommended by the Cleveland Restoration Society. Thanks to Harriet for her suggestion to contact the Restoration Society. Nancy will contact Brilliant to see if they are willing to come out and make a proposal. Watchfire Signs - They did the signs for Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood and Bay Presbyterian Church. Jim contacted them and was referred to Mike Boyer at Signature Signs here in Cleveland. Jim spoke with Mike and he will stop by and take measurements. We may be able to use the existing pillars. Signature is also recommended by the Cleveland Restoration Society. Dynamic Sign Co. and Blink Signs are also recommended by the Cleveland Restoration Society. The Easy Sign Group was mentioned in the article that Patty sent to us concerning the sign for the Claridon Township. Akers Signs did the sign for the Rocky River Methodist Church. Wagner Electric Sign did the sign for the Lakewood Methodist Church. Jim's online search found that Adams Signs and Graphics in Massillon has an attractive website. After discussion, we decided to contact three or four vendors. Keith suggested that we ask what kind of power is needed, 110 or 220? CAT 5 or cable connection or wireless? What is the cost of a new structure? Nancy and Jim will speak further about this and decide which vendors to contact. Nancy also wrote a very nice notice for the newsletter to inform the congregation of our efforts in this regard. This should be run continuously for some time.

Employees of the church who are receiving SSDI - Jim Mate - The church would like to accommodate employees of the church who are disabled so that they can continue in their employment. We discussed creating a special fund to serve this purpose. For now, we could put about \$1,200 into the fund and purchase Uber gift cards at the rate of about \$100 per month as a transportation allowance. This would be a part of the Personnel budget. This transportation allowance would be available to all employees who are receiving Social Security Disability Income. After further discussion, a MOTION was made and passed: To create a special fund to accommodate employees of the church who are receiving SSDI.

President's report - Martha - Matters for concern - Let's be kind and compassionate to one another. Communication is difficult in this time of COVID, but remains as important as ever. Statements have been made that the church does not appear to be well cared for. This can be unsettling to those of us who put in a great amount of time and effort to see that the building is

maintained and improved. In the fall of 2018 we had a party to celebrate the completion of the Dowd Commons, and renovation of the kitchen and restrooms. It was a great success and came in within budget. In January of 2019 our previous pastor Amy was leaving the church and a difficult and challenging period of time followed. However, several projects were completed to keep the building clean and well maintained and in good repair. We have a nagging fear that we are losing members. Our number of pledging units has dropped by one-half since 2017. The year 2020 brought us COVID-19 and all of its challenges, but we're trying to do the best we can. We have every reason to be anxious, but we're starting to recover.

Treasurer's report - Keith - Pledges are down about \$100,000 per year in the last three years.

Building and grounds - Keith – In a power point presentation he reviewed the recent accomplishments of the committee. The lighting has been upgraded at many locations throughout the church. The light fixtures on the outside of the west side of the church have been restored. The Herrick Room is greatly improved. The media room has been upgraded. The back entryway and stairs are freshly painted.

Beckwith Hall is refurbished and looks beautiful. Kitchen drain pipes to the street have been replaced. The masonry, gutters and roof receive constant maintenance. We upgraded our server. We fixed a \$15,000 leak in our patio roof. We built a new storage room to hold the choir risers. We replaced \$10,000 worth of pipes in the Education wing. We installed new boiler motors and controls. The air filtration system has been upgraded. We had a major sewer pipe replacement and restroom upgrades. We replaced our old water heater and installed a new rear kitchen door. We will replace Education wing doors and the student entry door. We replaced the parking hut. We spent \$257,443 on these various projects from 2017 through 2020. For 2021 we will give our attention to the rear entrance carriage door, window repairs, window handles and carpeting.

Pastor's report - Rev. Bill Hudson - A joint meeting of the three boards of the church is scheduled for February 24 to discuss the appearance of the church and how we may revitalize it. This is not meant as a criticism of the Building and Grounds committee in any way. The sanctuary and the Dowd Commons are lovely. The Building and Grounds committee has done a fabulous job of facing issues as they arise. But other places in the church appear old, as if their glory days are past. This is not a matter of routine maintenance. This is a matter for discussion. Some places have been left wanting. Keith stated that our focus should be on membership, not how the building looks.

We may consider a campaign to fund revitalizing the church. Let's put our best look forward. Rev. Hudson will do our first zoom Ash Wednesday service. The first Sunday in Lent will be a zoom service. The worship bulletin will be on one side of the screen and Rev. Hudson will be on the other.

There is a longing of the congregation to return to the sanctuary. We're hoping to do this by late spring or June.

Personnel - Jim Prince - Job descriptions are being finalized. We're talking about overtime pay. We may want to bring in a new part-time person on the custodial staff. All are on board with regard to accommodating employees of the church who are receiving SSDI.

Nominating - Harriet - We are moving forward and all is well.

Rev. Hudson - Everyone on staff is using their own IT equipment. All are working harder than planned. We have \$2,000 in the budget that can be used to buy three good laptop computers. Our custodians are being trained to take care of the outside doors. Salt is a problem. They require regular maintenance.

The congregation wants to get back together. We don't want to be virtual friends.

A motion to adjourn was approved and Harriet closed the meeting with prayer.

Or next meeting is scheduled for March 16.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Mate