

June 12, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting

In attendance: Pastor David, Suze Engbretson, Violet Thetford, David Dahl, Inga Henderson, Stuart Schultz, Beth Habecker, Dave Habecker, Michael Gross, Joe Hustad, Rhonda Eppelsheimer, Kris Hoggard, Bev Hada, Thomas Litterer, Emily Litterer, Sallie Bullock, Duane Bullock, Jane Jackson, Denise Demarre, Cindy Kinnie, Craig Kinnie, Jill Bierman

RESPECT guidelines were presented:

R – Take Responsibility for what you say and feel without blaming others.

E – Use Empathic listening

S – be Sensitive to difference in communication/cultural styles

P – Ponder what you hear and feel before you speak

E – Examine your own assumptions and perceptions

C – keep Confidentiality

T – Tolerate ambiguity because we are no here to debate, there are no “winners” or “losers”

Suze Shared the Agenda and Shared Roberts Rules for voting. Steve and Mark will count the votes.

Pastor David Opened with Prayer.

21-22 Year in Review

- Everyone was struggling due to Covid, loss of loved ones, work challenges, war, threats, shootings. And even though it was hard to see the energy when talking to each other in Zoom, Suze could still see it.
- 1 year anniversary for RIC
- Summer Preaching sermon
- We are on YouTube
- Able to celebrate birthdays
- 3rd Sunday Conversations – a chance to learn together
- Baptisms
- Quilting Group
- World Hunger Sunday
- Read a book together “Changing Our Minds”
- Benevolence Fund raised \$3,637.08
- Celebrated David 10 yrs of being with Community Christ church
- Made 150 baby care kits and distributed.
- Molly Thompson memorial fund

- Winter needs
- Join Sheppard of the Valley Church
- Began 1st in person worship on the Saturday before Easter
- Participated with several other congregations for the Prayer walk on good Friday.
- Still making baby care kits. Want to have another 100 by October
- Insomnia coffee gatherings on Saturday mornings
- Hybrid Worship – thank you to the worship committee for putting it all together.
- Fabric Sorting.

Financial – Beth Habecker

- Key bank Account - \$220,353
- Mission Investment Fund - \$1,635,975
- Giving 80% of the budget
- One time gift from Ron Boothly Estate
- Event and worship expenses are at 19% of the budget
- Total loss (overage from budget) 11K
- Budget revenue \$126, 650 – Actual revenue is \$118.135
- Budget Expenses \$170,299 – Actual Expenses \$182,120
- Contributions reduced by \$12,600 from prior year
- \$5500 increase in current year on projected giving
- 2.42% cos of living adjustment included
- Education line added this year
- Baby Care Kits line item added this year
- Event and worship expense increase to \$24,000

'22-'23 budget summary

- Revenue \$108,900 – Total Expense \$200,829 (Loss of \$19,929)
- We can continue to run like this with money in accounts for 16 years.
- But do not want to, want to make changes in the future.
- Automatic giving – most giving is currently done online
- Once the budget is decided and voted on, maybe have another meeting in 6 months to rediscuss with any changes that may have happened.
- Plan right now is to do more in person activities

Suze made a motion to have a vote of approval of the budget, It was seconded, ask for any discussion, there was none.

Board members that are leaving Cindy Kinnie and Tracy Litterer. Cindy just completely her 2nd year and Tracy just completed her 2nd term of a 2 year. Suze thanked them for their time and hard work. Pastor David also thanked them for their work and for the fact that they signed up during the pandemic and continue to support through the pandemic.

Rich Radford – Leaving as well. David thanked him for his service and time. Rich was the one who laid the groundwork for the sell of the building. He had all the numbers and pros and cons and shared with everyone.

Renewing board members are Larry Wade and Suze Engebretson. New members are Violet Thetford for Secretary and Beth Habecker for Treasurer.

Suze made a motion for approval, was seconded. Ask for any discussion – none.

Suze asked for hands to be raised for voting. 22 yes's and 0 no's

Mission and Vision Statement –

Our mission – Love God, Love People, Love Creation, Live like Jesus

Our vision – We are a Welcoming Christian community, committed to Christ's mission to love and serve our neighbor and eager to learn about Jesus' teachings together.

- Welcoming – we are inclusive of and advocate for people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientation and gender expressions We join with all to combat racism. We believe all are created equal, and we strive for gender and racial equity.
- Learn – We live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ we seek to learn more about God, God's will for us individually and collectively, and our role as stewards of creation.
- Engage – We encourage our members and community partners to apply all their gifts and passions to help the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized, and God's creation.
- Love and Serve – We serve in love as our Christian response. We believe all are called and equipped by God for a variety of missions. We serve as a community, and we serve as individuals. Our goal is to accompany those in need whether living near or far.

Suze motions for approval – was seconded – any discussion – Rhonda E wanted to thank Suze and Larry for taking the time to work on this and present it to everyone.

Vote – Yes's 23 and No's 0

Challenges that Face us at the moment. Pastor David and Steve put together – When the sell of the building was decided, there was supposed to be one year to be in a "Landing Spot" but due to Covid it went for 2 years. But things have still been moving forward just not as quickly as originally wanted.

Challenge 1 Accept the truth: Who we are and Where we are.

- In the last two years we have behaved in wonderful faithful and creative ways to maintain our community and be a church in the midst of very hard and challenging times.
- We are small but we have nothing to be ashamed of
- We continue to be faithful in ministering to ourselves
- However, our smallness is beginning to be a problem financially; we are spending nearly \$100,000 a year more than we are bringing in.

- Ironically, the biggest danger we face is that we could keep this up for 16 years before running out of money!
- But, we believe that to do so would be wrong.
- Like many other small congregations, we are recognizing that we may not have the wherewithal to find a path forward on our own we need to find partners to learn from and work with as we face an uncertain future. We had already reached this conclusion before the pandemic.
- We are living in VUCA times – V= Volatile U=Uncertain C=Complex A=Ambiguous

Challenge 2 Take the Responsibility of Stewardship for the huge resources we have by giving ourselves a time limit.

- Recognize that unless we give ourselves a time limit and measurable goals, we will likely continue to do what we are doing. To Not decide is to decide.
- Establish a time limit and set of measurable goals.

Challenge 3 Embark on a journey of Discovery

- Give ourselves one year to conduct a Journey of Discovery in which we identify partners with whom we might enter into plans for the future.
- Together we will create concrete plans to use our combined resources to bless not only ourselves, but especially to bless others.
- We believe it is at the center of God's heart for Jesus followers to accompany those on the margins: the widow, the orphan the poor the needy the houseless, the food insecure; to support marginalized groups, such as minority ethnic groups, and gender and sexual identity minority groups, who are currently neglected and abused. Because we believe this we will explore partnerships with those interested in doing this kind of work together.
- We have a few people in our church that may fit into one of these categories, but most of us are people of means with lots of options and strong agency. Is it right for us to spend such a large amount of resources on ourselves? We think not.

Challenge 4a Phase one – What will this journey look like?

- Phase on, June through December 2022 – Identify 30 to 50 potential partners in ministry.
- Organize into teams of three – four or five teams of three
- Each group has a monthly goal to identify two potential ministry partners and bring a report back to the congregation
- During Coffee Time, 20 minutes after each Sunday Morning Services, the teams report what they have learned.
- We take small straw polls at the end of Coffee time about which ones to follow up on.
- We refer these candidate partners to teams to interview and learn more.
- Do this week after week
- By December 22 Identify the top six partner candidates and the type of ministry we could do together.

Phase 2

- January through June 2023 Exploration with the potential Ministry partners.
- In dialogue with them answer these questions:

- What goals and values would we pursue together?
- How would we work together?
- What, specifically, do the members of ChristChurch need to bring to the relationship?
- Between Easter and June, we assess our plans and decide what kind of a future we have as a congregation:
 - How will these plans benefit the Kingdom of God and its passion for the marginalized?
 - How will these plans bring financial stability to ChristChurch?
 - If the latter is not possible, what plans will we make to invest our resources in our ministry partners and disband as a church?

Challenge 5 Every person participates in this Journey of Discovery in one or more of the following ways:

- Join a 3-person scouting team
- Generate ideas for potential partners
- Attend and engage in weekly conversations sharing ideas, asking questions
- Other (as yet undiscovered participation opportunities)
- Pray

Challenge 6 Assess our Collective Will and ability to Pursue this Plan

- Are we thinking that this is all something we can just leave to the church Council? We, the council, do not think this is the responsible way forward.
- Does this all sound like it is too much for us to take on?
- If so, why not start the process to disband make sure everyone has a place to go to church and a support system?
- Or, why not ask God to lead us through a year of discovery.

Next Steps:

- Holding our congregation in prayer
- Saying YES! Showing up
- Generating lists of possible partners
- Creating a central tracking system of contacts
- Create a template and script for contacting possible partners
- Holding regular touch points with council – at monthly council meetings (starting next week) and in conversations after worship.

Questions

- 5 fundamental qualities that make every team great from a Coach from Duke- Communication - Trust - Collective Responsibility – Caring – Pride. Any one is important but all together are unbeatable.
- How are you going to put the teams of three and how are doing the rest of the communication, Will there be a council member on each team and when is this going to start.

- Yes there will be a council member on each team. Depends on how many sign up and how many teams there will be.
- Can you share any potential partners?
 - Homeplate, greater good northwest, WQRC, any nonprofit in Washington County could potentially be a partner.

Pastor David Closed with prayer