

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Notes
January 23, 2024

Attendees: Brian Bush, Art Bykonen, David Cheek, Travis Daniel, Bonnie Farrish, John Heins, Felicia Howard (Zoom), Darcy Mays, Erin Nielsen (Zoom), Karen Vial

1. Welcome and prayer – **The meeting was opened with prayer by Darcy Mays at 7:03 p.m.**
2. Call for New Business Agenda Items
3. Approve minutes from January 2 meeting – **John Heins noted two corrections – the minutes did not state that the 2024 budget and usage of bazaar funds were approved. Minutes were approved as amended.**
4. Approve Treasurer's report for December – **Bonnie Farrish noted that the restricted fund balances on the December statements reflect the end of year balances. General fund revenues for 2023 exceeded expenses, due in no small part to frugality of our members in spending. The reports were accepted as presented.**
5. Business
 - A. Ministry updates
 1. Children – **No report submitted by Tondra Atkins.**
 2. Missions – **Karen Vial reported that Missions operations are proceeding "status quo". There was a clerical error on the district/conference side which caused the annual Kidz Kupboard grant proposal to not be considered. This has been a recurring \$3K source of funding for the ministry that will likely not be available this year. However, the local fund balance is more than sufficient to avoid a disruption in operations.**
 3. Youth – **Felicia Howard reported that the district youth retreat is planned for next month, but she is waiting for registration to be finalized. We will host the West End cluster youth "large group" meeting in March. Several have volunteered to be second adults for youth group meetings. There are opportunities for providing dinner to the youth on Wednesday nights as well. Summer mission trips run through Good Shepherd UMC have been offered to the youth. Opportunities with the Pace Center may also arise. She is also looking into pickleball-related fundraising opportunities.**
 4. Music – **No report submitted.**
 5. Korean – **No report submitted.**
 6. Adult – **Bonnie Farrish reported that the most recent planned meeting was cancelled due to the Gravitt funeral.**

B. Church calendar and upcoming events

C. Thoughts for the future of St. Andrew's

1. What can we do better?
2. What can we do differently?
3. What can we do that we don't currently do?
4. What would it take to start something new?

- **Written feedback was submitted by Jean Edwards speaking in support of increased fellowship opportunities and complimenting pickleball.**
- **John Heins suggested starting with goals to determine whether to make changes.**
- **Darcy Mays pointed out that we need to have programming in place to attract people. Our strengths include facility, Pastor Hong's worship services (though the services may not be as attractive to a younger demographic).**
- **Erin Nielsen mentioned that the conference newsletter had an opportunity for a workshop for new initiatives. She mentioned a 5K Turkey Trot (that has a raffle at the end, Pastor Phil!). She mentioned a preacher who does a good job of applying bible stories to life.**
- **John Heins asked regarding structure for this discussion and future opportunities at Council to regularly revisit strategy/initiatives (quarterly?).**
- **Travis Daniel spoke in support of our mission work but noted that we have much ground to travel in evangelism.**
- **The group spoke of the need for champions to give legs to ministry initiatives.**
- **Travis Daniel noted that we do not know about reasons that recent worship visitors have not returned, but we do have contact information for some and there is an opportunity for follow-up.**
- **Felicia Howard noted that she is the only active family with a toddler, so she completely understands the challenges of making connections within that demographic.**
- **Art Bykonen spoke of the need to continue to meet the needs of existing members. He asked if a single Sunday School class might help.**
- **Darcy suggested that we need a mechanism for evaluation ideas and moving forward.**
- **Erin Nielsen said that her past church fostered connection through a post-worship fellowship hour.**
- **John Heins pointed out that the vision team and Source Collaborative initiatives have had some successes and some failures, which was understood from the start.**

- **There was discussion about ways to solicit and collect ideas. John Heins pointed out that the vision team did this a few years ago.**
 - **David Cheek noted that change will always bring some level of dissatisfaction with established membership regardless of the approach. He attended a presentation recently by a Muslim who converted to Christianity.**
 - **Brian Bush talked about the difference between focusing on the survival of Saint Andrew's and making disciples for the larger church.**
 - **Karen Vial spoke about utilizing social media.**
 - **Felicia Howard suggested that ideas could be collected on "What do you think would help our church to prosper?" Darcy Mays suggested identifying a bulletin board to collect ideas and goals. Art Bykonen will communicate with Roberta Dorr regarding dissemination.**
 - **John Heins will contact the Source Collaborative group chair to get a concluding report on that group's activities, which technically closed at the end of 2023.**
6. Next meeting date – February 27, 2024 (Darcy out, need acting chair) – **John Heins will chair the meeting in Darcy's absence.**
7. Closing prayer – **John Heins closed the meeting with prayer at 8:31 p.m.**