

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church
Church Council Agenda
March 26, 2024

Attendees: Tondra Atkins (Zoom), Brian Bush, Art Bykonen, Andrea Carper, David Cheek, Travis Daniel, Bonnie Farrish, John Heins, Pastor Philip Hong, Felicia Howard (Zoom), Darcy Mays, Karen Vial

1. Welcome and prayer – **The meeting was opened with prayer by Darcy Mays at 7:04 p.m.**
2. Call for New Business Agenda Items – **Additional items added to agenda.**
3. Approve minutes from February 27 meeting – **Approved as presented.**
4. Approve Treasurer's report for February – **February receipts were down significantly below expectation, even when adjusted for January's windfall contributions. A \$50K short-term CD was procured with the approval of the Finance Committee to take advantage of higher interest rates; our restricted fund money market account interest rate was also raised by the Truist branch manager. Report approved as presented.**
5. Business
 - A. Update from ad hoc committee charged to think about future of St. Andrew's – **Committee debrief to follow another ad hoc committee meeting, followed by separate subgroup formation for investigation and further discussion. Decisions expected to come back to Council.**
 1. Committee has met 4 times and will meet at least one more
 2. Themes/topics/suggestions
 - a. Hospitality team – follow up with visitors, answer questions, make guests feel welcome
 - b. Increase facility use, make it a focal point of the community. New programs such as Grief Program, Elderly Care, etc.
 - c. Hire an individual to oversee identifying, developing and executing programs/events that meet the needs of the community. Part-time, outside of St. Andrew's, proficient in technology, marketing, communication, and coordinating.
 - d. Church mergers or increase collaboration among churches (West End Cluster, for example).
 - e. Property evaluation – where are the lines, is there more we can do with the property, if we are not going to use, should we consider selling unused property.

- f. Better recognize donors including those who have contributed to the endowment; can property be dedicated for this?

B. Ministry updates

1. Children – **Tondra Atkins reported that the Bunny Breakfast was held Saturday, which was very successful, raising about \$500 with minimal expenses. There were a number of younger attendees (3-4-year-old). Yard sale (May 4th) preparations are underway, with proceeds again designated to the Playground+ project. VBS is also on the calendar.**
2. Youth – **Hosted West End Cluster youth groups here in March, and will likely do the same again in the fall.**
3. Adult – **Lunch and “The Thorn” presentation are scheduled for April.**
4. Missions – **Karen reported that ongoing ministries, including shopping for Welborne Food Pantry, continue.**
5. Music – **Karen Vial reported that the choir will participate in Maundy Thursday and Easter services.**
6. Korean – **Pastor Hong reported that parking lot invites at shopping centers continue. Some Saturdays have been rained out. Conversations with Dr. Lee and Jim Chandler continue.**

C. Church calendar and upcoming events – **Maundy Thursday, Easter, invitation to Good Shepherd’s cantata on Good Friday, and the yard sale are upcoming. For Maundy Thursday, other cluster pastors will be participating, with details still being finalized tomorrow.**

- D. Discussion on whether to open Israel/Palestine history video to the congregation or keep as a Happy Wanderers event – **Discussion held; no objections voiced to moving forward either way.**
- E. Funding for Rise Against Hunger – **After discussion, John Heins made a motion to allocate up to \$3500 from the endowment to support a Rise Against Hunger event with provisions and brainstorming for increasing participation outside our church family. A voice vote was taken with some abstentions noted; the chair ruled that the motion was approved.**
- F. Art Bykonen reported that the United Methodist Men are planning a service event for the Glen Allen Heart Havens “Crossridge” home.
- G. Other items: **Pastor Hong plans to launch a chronological bible study on the second week of April evenings at two different times; signups planned on Wednesday nights and 10-11:30 on Thursdays. He has also discussed with Pastor Karl about (re)offering a grief seminar in the fall. Pastor Hong will make a trip to Korea May 15th-June 1st. Art Bykonen will take over the Sunday School Superintendent position. Some additional reporting will be done by small groups online.**

Art Bykonen suggested beginning prayers for the UMC General Conference and educating ourselves at the Resource UMC website.

6. Next meeting date – April 23, 2024
7. Closing prayer