

Leadership Council Minutes

11/25/24

Members Present: Rick Allison, Anne Atzinger, Denny Blessing, Jeff Buck, Kathy Heistand, Phil Howard, Audrey Miller, John Thompson, Melissa Truelove, Jeff Wright

1. John Thompson opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Attendance Report (October)
 - a. Stones Crossing Campus
 - Avg. Worship Attendance 243, year-to-date Avg. 231
 - Avg. Online Attendance 51 (FB 37 YT 13), year-to-date Avg. 49
 - SS/LG Avg. Attendance 128 (12 children, 6 youth), year-to-date Avg. 148 (17 children, 5 youth)
 - 1st time visitors 13, 2nd time visitors 3
 - b. Trafalgar Campus
 - Avg. Worship Attendance 53, year-to-date Avg. 46
3. Pastor's Report (Pastor Jeff Buck)
 - Clara Sjoquist, our Director of Communications, turned in her notice and has accepted a new position and her last day is November 27. Clara committed to getting all the December bulletins and promotions completed before her departure.
 - Pastor Jeff gives thanks that the staff were willing to divide Clara's responsibilities after he shared that the Director of Communications position will not be filled right away and maybe not at all. Melissa Truelove will be the point person for all communication and building use needs and will distribute requests to the person or persons that will carry out the task.
 - Concern was raised that we are moving backward, and the Director of Communications is a critical position. When we hired the Unstuck Group, the consultant emphasized the importance of Communication.
 - Advent begins December 1st and December 8th will be our Music Sunday with a traditional cantata at 9am and a more contemporary approach at 10:30am. December 19th is our Daycare Christmas Program and December 22nd is our no practice Kid's Christmas Pageant at 9am followed by Life Groups hosting a Christmas Party for Jesus after the service.
 - As we look forward to 2025, Pastor Jeff believes it will be a year to reach out and grow leadership for service within and in the community.
4. Bylaws of Mt. Auburn Church Inc.

- The bylaws were emailed to the council members as requested at the last meeting.
 - No authority has been designated to the Executive Committee at this point. John Thompson shared that the insurance company encourages an Executive Committee to make quick decisions when needed.
 - John Thompson made a motion to designate the Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Leadership Council along with the Senior Pastor as noted in the bylaws. Jeff Wright seconded the motion which was voted on and carried forward.
 - A question was raised whether the spelling of Mt. Auburn in the bylaws should be spelled out as Mount Auburn. Pastor Jeff will follow up with Brenda Reynolds on this.
5. Child Protection Policy, 2nd Read and Potential Vote (John Thompson)
- John Thompson explained some of the proposed changes to the Child Protection Policy that must be made to comply with our insurance coverage.
 - Denny Blessing will email council members the updated draft of the proposed changes so everyone can review thoroughly before the next meeting.
 - The Child Protection Policy was tabled until the December meeting.
6. Financial Report (October)
- The Stones Crossing Campus had a deficit of \$(14,491) for the month and a surplus of \$18,237 year-to-date.
 - The Trafalgar Campus had a surplus of \$950 for the month and a surplus of \$13,735 year-to-date.
 - The Daycare had a surplus of \$1,514 for the month and a surplus of \$11,755 year-to-date.
 - Nothing has been spent from the Trustee Account in 2024.
 - Interest accumulated from the bank accounts totals \$11,367.84.
 - To hit the projected budget for 2024, \$85,000 per month is needed for October-December. October and November came in much lower than expected so it's hard to project how the year will end. All Christmas Eve donations will go towards the general budget.
7. 2025 Budget
- The Stones Crossing Campus has received 108 pledges totaling \$636,040 leaving a shortfall of \$(42,053). It's hopeful that the insurance costs will come down but currently there is no way to balance the budget. The payroll reflects the 9 current church staff positions.
 - The Trafalgar Campus has a break-even budget.
 - The Daycare has a projected income of \$12,482 and this includes a price increase in daycare fees.
 - There will be no staff raises this year.

- A question was raised about the process for determining if staff receive raises and how SPRC decisions are being reached since they are not coming before the Leadership Council.
8. The December Meeting will remain on December 23.
 9. Anne Atzinger shared that Beth Carter wants to keep the oldest bus because it is needed as an alternate bus when one is under repair.
 10. Jeff Buck closed the meeting with prayer.