

November 22, 2021

November 2021 COS Council Meeting

(Not in attendance (Scott, Sue and Carol)

**Devotional:** Mike opened the meeting with the topic Finances, Friendships and happiness. He heard a radio show talking about retiring happy. The guest host posed the question to retire happy what is the minimum amount of close friends you need? In retirement, does money buy happiness? While money can buy things and to some degree provide for peace of mind in being able to pay bills, etc. it cannot buy happiness. It can buy experiences and things. It can pay for trips with loved ones and friends. There is a point where excess money no longer provides happiness. The trip you once bought would not be made better if you had money to buy the island. The opposite is true regarding close relationships and friendships. The more you have the more happiness you will also have. The author of the book, Blue Zones said that the happiest retirees have at least three close friends. Americans have gone from an average of three close friendships in the 1990s to 1.7 today. This despite the rise in social media. The more friendships above three you have in retirement the happier you will be. Our church provides an avenue to make close friends. Our friends can help connect us in Jesus pathway of Joy and Life.

**Pastor Reports:**

Senior Pastor Fritz: Refer to pastor report. October Fest recap. Octoberfest was a WIN for COS and our community. Nearly 300 people attended the three hours of live music, kid games, arts and crafts, etc. A participant noticed dead stumps and offered to pay \$380 to have them removed. Work is underway to have them removed.

Contemporary Worship: Interim Coordinator of Contemporary Worship, Luanne Harris, is doing a really great job. The music lately has sounded fantastic and the band looks to be having fun while performing.

Communications Coordinator Update: Shelley Casey served her last week. Thanks to Laura Hawkins for agreeing to get us through the new year on an interim basis. Pastor Miriam and Fritz will be talking to several candidates for the position.

This advent is going to be great. A lot of work has been done to the advent calendar devotional.

Eric asked that with Shelly leaving if we were going to do any special recognition for her service. There were special announcements at services the previous couple of weeks but that they would consider a special write up going forward.

Pastor Miriam: The Halloween costumes were great. New Member class going on. Both preschool classes have grown from the beginning of school which is great. Voting will return next week. Contemporary worship doing well. New faces are adding to the depth of the band. Lots of participation from various musicians. Boundary Training for Rostered Leaders was well received by our Pastors. Pastor Miriam felt this training was better than previous years. Family night on Wednesday went great. Nine families attended which was more than expected. One challenge was how to connect better with your family. Come up with three bucket list items that are reasonable that would allow you to engage with your family and bring a sense of connection. First advent kicks off this Sunday. Preschool mom's meet once a month. With the exception of Ingrid not one of them is a member of our church. Fayette County Philharmonic Youth Orchestra gave a performance which was fantastic!

#### **Stewardship Update (Pastor Fritz filled in for Kevin):**

As Kevin shared earlier send an email out reminding people of our stewardship drive and that will be followed up with phone calls. We realize that phone calls most people don't like to make them but they are essential this year with the reduction of worshippers in trying to connect with people to increase their giving. We have connected with nearly 100 families that gave this year leaving 120 or so left to connect with. If each Council member connected with 10 – 12 families that would reach our goal. A lengthy discussion ensued about the cards being used in the Stewardship drive.

#### **Finance (Mark):**

Mark gave a review of the October Finances. Refer to the October Financial Summary for specifics. Pastor Fritz reiterated the importance of reaching out and connecting with congregants to see if they can commit to giving as part of our Stewardship campaign. A discussion broke out on whether the focus on the budget keeps certain programs or initiatives from being launched. Mark reiterated that people should not be afraid to spend the money they've been allotted.

#### **Survey Update (Rick):**

Last month Scott, Eric and Rick got together and came up with six questions with regards to setting policies about masks, worship, etc. After discussing the subject with various people we have narrowed down the list to five questions. The most important question could be question #4 on the survey which asks if you "have not returned to in-person events and here are the reasons why". There has been debate on when to release the survey but the decision is that it go out to the congregation on January 3, 2022 to not interfere with the Stewardship drive and the Christmas season.

#### **Audit Follow-up (Rick):**

Rick discussed the ten findings from the Audit committee. The findings were put into a spreadsheet and then given to the affected committees who would then indicate the actions taken to correct any issues.

**October Meeting Minutes (Rick):** Motion to approve October minutes – Robbie made motion. Motion seconded by Mike. Motion approved unanimously.

**Sanctuary Report (Mike):** Refer to the Sanctuary Committee Update. After Pastor Fritz's visit to St. Andrew Lutheran church in Franklin, TN we came up with some favorable options to improve the sanctuary experience.

Signed a contract and sent a retainer check to Arpeggio Acoustical Consultants. Once they have tested the sanctuary and reported to us the possible options we can start making recommendations concerning modifications to the sanctuary.

David Beecher began conversations with Alberto Portela Jr who is the architectural consultant with GLE Associates. He's an expert in ecclesiastical design and has expressed a strong interest in helping us.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.