

BETHLEHEM CEMETERY BOARD  
MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2022

Members Present: Marty Seyfried, Sue Irwin, Jim Lutz, Sallie Stadel, Sue Buday, Mary Friend  
Absent: Sexton, Brad Bouchie

The meeting was called to order by President, Marty Seyfried.

REPORT FROM MR. SEYFRIED:

In the absence of Mr. Bouchie, Mr. Seyfried reported that:

- The road salt is running low, Mr. Seyfried authorized the ordering of a pallet of salt which will cost about \$300.
- There is no problem with any of the trees, at this time.
- A new phone is being purchased for the cemetery, the service will remain the same. Mr. Bouchie is working with Mr. Lutz on this.

DIRT – Mr. Seyfried will contact Larry Sanborn about the price of dumping dirt at the back of the cemetery property. The price will be \$25.00 a load.

FURNACE – The furnace in the cemetery office is not working. The parts have been ordered and space heaters are being used until it can be repaired.

MINUTES – The ‘Notes’ from the December email discussion were approved. Mrs. Irwin motioned, Mrs. Buday second, passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Mr. Lutz and Mrs. Irwin attended the Zoom meeting with the Bank of Ann Arbor regarding the investments of the church and cemetery. The current investments for the cemetery are allocated at 60% in fixed and 40% in equities. The financial officer recommended changing the allocation to 50% fixed and 50% equities. Mr. Lutz motioned to make this change to 50/50, Mrs Stadel second, passed.

The Financial Report for the month of December was discussed. Mrs. Buday moved to accept, Mrs. Stadel second, passed.

TREES - Mr. Bouchie has not yet given us the invoice for the purchase of trees for the cemetery property. We will continue to remind him.

HEADSTONE PURCHASES – Customers wanting to purchase headstones through Mr. Bouchie/Inch Memorial are having a hard time reaching him. The customers are contacting the church office who in turn contact Mrs. Irwin. Mrs. Irwin will refer to Mr. Seyfried to follow-up.

PLANS FOR 2022 –

- Review the price list.
- Seal Coating Roads - The last time the roads were seal coated was 2017. The portion that was resurfaced last year needs to wait until 2023 to be done. Suggested contractors to do the work are TJ Burke and Anthony's Seal Coating.
- Replace the carpet on the office floor.

THE FUTURE – A discussion was held regarding the future plans for the cemetery.

The next meeting will be held on February 8, 4:00, at the cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Friend,  
Secretary

**Education Ministry Team**  
**January 5, 2022**

**Present:** Eileen Koprowski-Chair, Jan Eadie, Julie Feldkamp, Nancy Pieske, Karen Samford, Jane Schmerberg, and Christina Wilk

**Christmas Gifts** – Jan and Eileen delivered Christmas gifts and packages including the chocolate Advent calendars. The kids enjoyed these items. Thanks to Katie for additions to packages.

**Mitten Tree** – Jan reported the mitten tree had already been put up. Jane will take the donated items to Peace Neighborhood Center.

**Lenten Mission Project** – Lent is Mar 2- April 14

We decided to let the Youth Group decide on which group we will collect for.

We will give Katie two options Fischer House and Heifer Project, to present to the youth. If Katie has any other ideas, she may include that as well.

Katie would like someone from EMT to give the kids more information about the group we decide to collect for.

**Winter and Valentine's Day** – Nancy will get a craft together for Winter and Valentine's Day to send out at the end of January.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Submitted by Karen Samford

## Leadership Council Meeting Agenda

January 27, 2022, 4:30-6:10pm

Present: Ron Dechert, President; Jim Rowan, Vice President; Pete Hendershot, Treasurer; Rachel Hemp, Secretary; Dindy Haab, Pam Rutledge (arrived at 5:00), Pat Huibregtse (arrived at 5:00), Members-at-Large; John Kennedy (arrived at 4:50, excused at 5:50), Pastor and *ex-officio* Member

1. Some interior offices within the main church office have been rekeyed. Instead of using Gwen's office to count the offering, the money counters will use the Associate Pastor's office. If the Associate Pastor's office is inadequate, an alternate location will be determined.
  
2. IT/Web security review request- Ron
  - a. A group of four students and one professor from UM-Dearborn wants to do a security audit at no cost to us as a class project. They would give us recommendations for access policies and security. This would include who has admin rights and access to our financial accounts, Facebook pages, live streaming, etc. Council supported this unanimously.
  
3. Finalize Pastor Annual Review? (Pastor John excused)
  - a. Further discussion will take place on 2/3/22

Member Care Minutes  
January 19, 2022

Meeting began at 4:00 pm

Members Present: Beth Wenner, Dindy Haab, Judy Coucouvanis, Mary Jean Raab and Karen Kennedy. Guest: Karen Samford

Discussed Old Business:

**Member Spreadsheet** – Mary Jean and Karen Samford discussed what has been updated. Attendance has not been updated since February 2020 due to pandemic. This may continue to be difficult due to keeping track of online and radio listeners. We will ask the office for an update quarterly for those who have joined, died, left, etc) via email. Also, will need to update address changes as well. Briefly discussed membership audit and whether to postpone or we are required to still do one according to the by-laws.

**Time and Talent Sheet** – Tentatively scheduled to go out during lent (Giving Something Back) Karen will send letter to other ministry teams asking for their input to be sent back in by February 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussed sending this out more than once a year.

**Valentine Cards** – Katie Rowan asked if Member Care would like to partner with the Youth Group to send valentines to the homebound. We discussed and decided that it would be nice for all of those over 80 to receive them. Mary Jean can get a count and possibly print labels. Member Care will order and pay for cards and postage.

**Leadership Council** – Dindy gave us a report from Leadership Council. Stated that there had been a meeting with the Michigan Conference to get ideas on supporting Pastor John and the membership.

Discussed New Business:

**Survey Meeting** – Discussion of new member/confirmand welcome Sunday at a date in the future. This is looking at being a joint effort between Member Care, Welcome, Worship and Pastor John. Karen will contact the chairs to see what we would like to do. As a further discussion, we talked about putting new member photos and bios in the Visitor. (Need to ask if someone would be willing to do this).

**Other New Business** – Judy suggested that we look into doing something for Lent. Suggested that we all try and think of suggestions/ideas and bring them to the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled at 4:00 pm on February 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom call.

Meeting ended at 5:00 pm

## **Outreach Ministry Team Meeting Notes**

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Roy Muir convened the Zoom meeting at 7:30pm.

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Present: Co-Chairs Sue & Roy Muir, Mary Jean Raab, Laura Seyfried, Katie Rowan, Jamie Dylenski, Sue Wortman, Jane Schmerberg, Ron Dechert

### **November 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Approved as presented.

#### **Agency Updates**

##### **Alpha House: Laura**

- Due to a change in times that the the Board meetings are being held, Laura is no longer able to be our liaison to AH. The next meeting is scheduled for 11:00 am on February 15. Roy will attend that meeting. We need to find another person to be our liaison.
- The next date for BUCC to provide a meal for AH is Sunday, March 27. A Genius Sign-Up will be used again to recruit volunteers.
- AH continues to work with their clients to help identify and assist with Covid- related mental health issues. This is done with the help of their case workers, providing special assistance to children, if needed, referring a client for another agency's help, and follow-up with the families after they move out of AH.

##### **Peace Neighborhood Center: Sue**

- After-school tutoring and feeding programs have started back up following the Christmas break.
- Beginning March 1, PNC will be providing a special program developed by four of their social workers on staff to help identify Covid-related mental health issues for the families and children.

##### **Ground Cover**

- The church office and Ground Cover are unable to locate the original contract made sometime between 2009-2011, initiated by Pastor Martha Brunell.

- OMT would like to revisit our relationship with Ground Cover. Ron will talk to Leadership and Pastor John about a future vision for our relationship with them.
- \$600 a month continues to come out of the McKay Community Benevolence Fund, which is reimbursed to Facilities, to defray building use expenses for Ground Cover.
- Sue will check with Betty Clark to see if GC is paying \$50/month to BUCC or if that was set up originally back when the contract was first done.

#### **Community Kitchen: Jamie**

- Nothing additional at this time.

#### **Food Gatherers: Katie**

- The Youth Group had a special project where they assembled 20 bagged “Lunches with Love” that were delivered to Food Gatherers.
- The next BUCC Work Day for Food Gatherers at the Warehouse from 9:30-11:30am will be **February 19**. There is a Genius Sign Up available online.

#### **Ministry Team Updates**

#### **Youth & Young Adults Ministry and Education Ministry Teams: Katie/Jane**

- Both of these teams are collaborating for this year’s Youth Lenten Project. The appeal will be for the Ann Arbor Public Schools special fund that is set up for social workers to use, at their discretion, to assist children with emotional or stability needs. This fund is being set up through Rec and Ed.

#### **Rotating Shelter Program: Mary Jean/Roy**

- Plans are well underway to host in our building March 14-20. A Genius Sign Up is now available for the volunteers who will stay overnight in the building the evenings we host. We are inviting anyone in the congregation to volunteer, in addition to special appeals to all the Ministry Teams, the Leadership Council, and a few established groups.
- Church of the Good Shepherd will be providing volunteers for one of the evenings.
- Ron will follow up with Grace Point Youth Ministry and the Pentecostal congregation to see if they would like to host one of the evenings. Both of these groups currently rent from us.
- We will provide coffee and snack/protein bars for the men.

- Facilities has established that the Schmale Lounge (for overnight volunteers to use), the Library, and the Gallery are the rooms that will be used.

### **New Business**

- **Distribution to agencies from Outreach from the current 2021-22 Operating Budget:**

After our discussion, we unanimously voted and approved to distribute our allocation of \$10,474 to Peace Neighborhood Center, Alpha House, and Food Gatherers, each agency to receive \$3,500. This totals \$10,500. The balance needed of \$26 will be taken out of the Outreach Memorial Fund.

We also discussed how we can do a better job of promoting the agencies we support, not only in our congregation but also in the community. Suggestions were:

- Revive the Outreach Moments during worship services
- Publish articles in the Visitors highlighting the agencies and what services they provide for our community
- Enlist Ground Cover to publish an article in their newspaper
- When needs are identified, have special appeals to supplement the money allocated in the Operating Budget

- **McKay Community Benevolence Fund**

- We would like to create a new paradigm to strengthen our dialogue with Pastor John to help develop a shared vision of how this fund can support our community with outreach needs.
- We are hoping that by reaching out to Pastor John, we can open up two-way conversations between him and OMT.

### **Next Meeting**

We have scheduled our next meeting for February 28 beginning at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Muir

Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team Minutes  
January 6, 2022

Zoom Meeting: Katie Rowan, Jesse Wilcox, Rachel Hemp

We will hold today's Youth Group on zoom since AAPS is virtual this week.  
We will reassess each week, following AAPS's lead whether to be in person or virtual.

Old Business:

- The December care packages were well received. Katie received thank you's from 2 youth and their families.
- Kurt did sound/streaming training last month and the Youth were excited to use the equipment.
- We discussed the Youths' concerns in the aftermath of the Oxford school shootings and what they were experiencing on social media and at school.
- We video recorded Silent Night with handbells, flute, and singing to be shown as part of the 5P Christmas Eve service. This was well received by the congregation.

Second semester:

- We will partner with Member Care to send Valentine cards to older members of the congregation.
- Lenten Project: EMT would like the Youth to select the organization from the 2 or 3 they have vetted which will receive BUCC Lenten donations. They would like to know our choice before Ash Wednesday, March 2.
- College Care Cards: We decided to do gift cards instead of care packages, as was done last year. We will start collecting the college students' addresses in March and plan to send the cards out in April.
- Submitted by Katie Rowan, Chair