

Financial Stewardship Program Team
Winter Meeting
February 4, 2021

Attendees: Dave Edmonson, Rob Harveland, John Helmers, Connie Schuelka
Visitors: Barb Foss, Jerry Katzmann, Amy Nelson, Linda Thompson

Agenda:

1. Chalice lighting (*The Abundance of Our Lives Together* by Katie Gelfand)
2. Pledge Drive Report (Barb Foss)
Barb reported on the upcoming pledge drive preparations which will include a YouTube Variety Show on March 6th to kick-off the drive, and a March 21st drive-through, to conclude. The theme is "Tending the Flame".

There are 6 people on the team, but help would be appreciated for the drive-through, which will encompass four different stations in the parking lot.

The team would like some guidance on what financial message we want to convey to the congregation. Rob noted that this may become more clear as we start to develop next year's budget.

People will be encouraged to fill out their pledge forms and submit them electronically.

3. Report from Rob (board)
Rob noted that much of the last meeting was spent discussing the offer of land for the building of a new church. Rob emphasized that the board "acknowledged" the offer. They didn't "accept" the offer. The congregation will ultimately make the decision to stay or build (either on that land or somewhere else). There is currently no timeline for a congregational vote. And there is also no timeline from the potential donors. We have time to make this decision. Even if we ultimately decide not to accept the land, the donors have pledged to make a comparable donation.

4. Report from Connie (finance reports)

Connie reviewed the financial health of the church, which continues to be good. Income is coming in, mostly above projection. The one exception is Building Usage fees, of which there will be none this year.

5. Other items

a. Stock sell triggers (Dave)

Dave explained that a stock trigger could be used to sell a stock when it falls below a certain level. This would ensure that we wouldn't lose almost everything if the market were to go into some kind of free-fall. In looking at the dividend producing stocks that we currently hold, people felt that none were particularly volatile. Also, our policy of not holding more than 10% of our budget in stocks would help mitigate any losses. We will hold steady on the current policy for now.

b. Endowment Chair report (Connie)

Connie reported that Mary Amundsen has agreed to head up Endowment. What this means will be an on-going discussion in the coming year as we revise bylaws and policies. Mary doesn't anticipate any big events in the coming year. One-on-one approaches will be made to those considering bequests.

c. Report on Hawthorne Helps fund (Connie)

Due to the pandemic, Hawthorne Helps is not currently able to have their store. They also have a sizeable balance in their fund.

Therefore, they have reached out to the Community Health Clinic (formerly Migrant Health) to partner with them to get non-SNAP items to those who need help. The group wanted the finance team to be aware of this extension. The team felt comfortable letting the Hawthorne Helps people make decisions about ways to effectively spend the money in their fund.

d. Budget planning (Rob)

Rob noted that the board would like to put a focus on staff compensation for the coming year. Jerry mentioned that we should

also plan for some kind of big bash when we can finally be together again.

- i. Stewardship spent almost \$1,000 last year on the big kick-off party. We should probably aim for a similar figure for next year.
- ii. Fundraisers is the budget line currently used for the Auction and the Handcrafted Bazaar. Melissa envisions an outdoor event again next fall with even more vendors. The primary expense for this would be 2 porta-potties (~\$500). The Auction may be a combination of in-person and on-line. Food and drink are provided for an in-person event (~\$1,000).
- iii. Endowment doesn't anticipate needing money next year.

6. Remarks and questions from visitors.

The next meeting of the Financial Stewardship team will be 7 pm on May 6th.

Facilitator: Rob Harveland

Note taker: Connie Schuelka