

## **Summary of Council from September – December**

The Council meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday at 3:30 pm.

The meeting is open to all members of the church. Copies of the minutes are available in the office.

The status of the HVAC replacement was reported and has been discussed each month. They are making progress. Ward's employees are working daily to install the equipment.

Each month an update was given on the Gerald Nield Trust. Derrin Hiatt is representing the 3 non-profits (FCC, Marland's Place, University Center) in this action. The courts proposed award to FCC had increased from 15% to 16.67%. There has been some progress.

We continue to see our giving not staying up with our expenses or budget.

We approved a 2023 Giving Challenge that was proposed by an anonymous church member. They have offered to give a 50% matching gift for contributions to the church that are in addition to any giving-unit's planned giving for 2023. The matching gift will be capped at \$5,000. A giving envelope was placed in the bulletin and announcements were add to the rolling announcements before the service. There is still time to make a contribution.

To improve the safety of the kitchen, a plug-in-type of Natural Gas Detector was purchased.

The Trustees performed a financial review process on August 30 for accounts under their control. This is a new process designed by Financial Secretary Arlene Stauffer based on recommendations from the audit report in 2022. All Trustees, Pastor Stephen, Arlene and Karen Adams participated. A final report from the review has been written and approved by the Trustees with the finding that all documentation and reporting are appropriate.

Arlene reviewed an outline for the 2023 Stewardship program to be titled "It's a Wonderful Church". The 4-week program ran from October 29 through November 15.

The Church staff sponsored a Cookout on October 8 with assistance from the Council members. This was the beginning of Pastor Appreciation Week. Members were encouraged to send cards of appreciation to Stephen.

Pastor Stephen started the Wildcat Wednesday and the Choir Internship during September. He is pleased with the progress of both projects.

The Congregational Meeting was held on November 19 following the church service. Moderator, Sandra Pendergraft, called the meeting to order and asked the nomination committee facilitator, Marilyn Leming to introduce her committee and present the Nominating Committee Report. Her committee was, Nancy Stevenson, Diann Benson, Dave Bryan, Pat Hicks, Ron Kreger, Lois Corbin, Kathy Megee and Becky Helems. The nominating committee report had the following recommendations: Judy Basham – Moderator (2025), David Bryan – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Moderator (2026), Christy Thompson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Moderator (2025), Ed Newport – Treasurer (2025), members – Lester Freeman (2026), Jacque Hart (2024), Marilyn Leming (2026), Mike Morris (2024), and Charles Smith (2024). A complete list of Elders, Deacons, Trustees and other Elected Officers may be found in the church office. The congregation approved the 2024 Leadership Slate.

The Moderator called on Bob Corbin, facilitator of the SFRT committee, to introduce his committee and present the 2024 budget. Committee members included, Treasurer Ted Impson; Members Mike Morriss, Marlena Freeman, and Ron Kreger; Ex-Officio Members Council Moderator Sandy Pendergraft, Pastor Stephen Johnson, and Financial Secretary Arlene Stauffer. A copy of the presented budget can be picked up from the church office. The congregation approved the 2024 Budget.

Our Service Ministries have been working hard to help others. There has been a great need for Koats for Kids this winter.

An Internal Financial Review was completed on the financial records and a report presented to the Council. A review of the Church By-Laws will be started in January. The committee is Stan Brown, Arlene Stauffer, and Sandra Pendergraft. If anyone wants the committee to look at something in particular, please notify one of us on the committee.

As the Moderator of the Council, I would like to thank all of you that helped and supported me during this last year. I could not have done anything without your assistance. I hope that you will do the same for your new Moderator, Judy Basham.

Thank you, again. *Sandy Pendergraft*