

**MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH
BOARD MEETING minutes November 20, 2024**

Attendance via Zoom: John McCarty, Cindy McClung, Tom Spray, Cathy Snyder, Janet Bowers, Ed Persinger, Mike Philippon, Kathy Spray, Duane Ready

Meeting opened with prayer by John McCarty.

September Board Minutes were emailed to all before this meeting. The minutes were approved with the exception that an item from the Trustees section was questioned by Duane. An item in the minutes indicated an appraisal value of \$1.6 million and he was concerned that this figure might not be factual. Since the building is currently being appraised, it should be noted that that figure may not be current as it was related to an earlier, outdated appraisal.

Minister's Report:

- Ron Browns cancer is back and he is going to try a new treatment.
- Cindy's trip to Greece was amazing.

Church Clerk: Cathy Snyder. Nothing new to report.

Financial Secretary: Kathy Spray – Janet and Kathy are working on updating QuickBooks with Edna to get our expenses dialed in. (needed for part of the Discernment process) In 2024, there have been 32 donors. In 2023, we had 38 donors. Our income is trending to be flat for 2024. Expenses for 2024 are already about \$2400 more than the entire expenses for 2023.2.

Treasurer's Report: Edna has logged February's expenses into QuickBooks and is working w/our accountant to reconcile.

The Officers' reports were approved.

Team Reports

Christian Education: John

- Bible study - "Context" - will be shared by Cindy and John.
- Cindy's trip to Greece will provide material for sermons in January.
- Dining Disciples luncheons and dinners have started back up.

Deaconess Report: Deaconesses are taking turns setting up communion trays each Sunday.

Deacons: Deacons continue to help during Sunday services with Communion and the offering.

Elders – From Rev Cindy

- Chuck Sargent was ill and did not attend the meeting.
- Prayer list was updated.

Outreach: John McCarty

- Caring Connections - people are having trouble with making connection via phone. The group is going to send out cards.

- November is the Gratitude Challenge.
- The Giving Tree is up; wrapped presents need to be returned by Dec. 7.
- Volunteers are welcome to join those will be singing Christmas carols at Kane on Dec. 14. Presents will be delivered that day, too. Singing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

Personnel:

- Edna is getting up to speed on the newsletter.
- She will be having knee surgery on Dec. 9. Efforts are in process to help her work from home.
- Samuel will be off Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. He has arranged for a substitute.
- Samuel's concert was canceled. He will be doing a recital at Duquesne University in the spring. It was suggested he perform at the church as well.
- Cindy will be engaging with an immigration attorney to evaluate how the Church might support Samuel in extending his visa or obtaining permanent residence.
- Not discussed at meeting: Chuck helped get the Online Version of Quickbooks he was able to purchase cheap (\$19) through the TechSoup as a non-profit. Edna and the financial officers can now get our books updated that have fallen way back. (We also needed online version because of PC problems with the desktop version of Quickbooks)

Pastoral Relations Committee: Nothing new to report. There was general discussion about reinvigorating this committee and how it might be a useful way for church members to share concerns anonymously and for ministers to gain meaningful feedback.

Program team: from Rev Cindy

- Decorating the church for the Advent season will be started on Nov. 24 after worship.
- Christmas party will be Dec. 15 after worship in the Chapel.

Property: Tom – see Trustees report

Stewardship: Need a volunteer to chair team.

Trustees: Ed Persinger

- Appraisal process is ongoing. A report is expected soon.
- Home Away from Home School will use the church two days a week in 2025, down from its current three. They are planning to use it from noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- A Sudanese congregation that requested use of the church is no longer interested.
- Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian would like to use our baptismal sometime in January.
- Soldiers of God via the Church of God - a group of Romanians - is interested in using the church beginning in 2025. They are currently in Moon Township. They want to hold a Sunday service from 4:30-7:30 p.m. They also would like to hold a mid-week service and Bible studies in addition to occasional dinners in Fellowship Hall. There was much discussion about how to proceed effectively. Board members voted 6-0 to pursue an agreement with them for \$1,800 a month. That is contingent upon us doing our due diligence in regard to specific responsibilities and tax implications, etc. John raised concerns that six did not represent a quorum but we decided we needed to move forward because there is some sense of urgency as they would like to begin using the building starting in January.

Worship: Cindy

- Advent services will focus on the different senses.
- Christmas Eve service is 7 p.m.

Special Teams: Discernment Team

- Discernment team is at a standstill. Nothing is happening as we try to get expenses and budgets figured out. Kathy will reconvene that team to work on next steps and continue to move forward.

Old Business: John McCarty

- Google Workspace initiative is dealing with some technical issues. More testing is needed.

New Business:

- Duane questioned why all trustees are eligible to sign checks on behalf of the church. He also suggested there should be a dollar threshold on how much a trustee can write/sign a check.

Rev Cindy closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Chuck Sargent using notes from Tom Spray

Google Workspace for Non-Profits recommendation at July Board Meeting

What does it cost and what are the benefits of using Google Workspace?

- ▶ There is no cost for Google Workspace for Non-Profits
 - ▶ A simple application which confirms we are a non-profit is all that is required
- ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ 100TB free storage per organization (30GB per user)
 - ▶ Create Shared Files to improve collaboration
 - ▶ Improves communication
 - ▶ Can be accessed anywhere using a computer or smartphone
 - ▶ Secure storage with two-factor identification
 - ▶ Integrates easily with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint
 - ▶ Shared calendar can be used for Worship (Elders, Worship Leader, Tech assignments)
 - ▶ Calendars can show when staff and leaders are out of town

Pilot Project

- ▶ To determine if rolling out Google Workspace for MLCC as a whole, we are suggesting to do a Pilot Project which would pull together a team.
- ▶ This team would perform the initial setup and use the tools on a small scale for 30 days. During this time, the team may decide to pull in a couple of other people to help evaluate the feasibility and investigate other possibilities.
- ▶ At the end of the period, the team would give a report to at the September board meeting.