

Church Council Minutes
Thursday December 8th, 2011

Meeting opened at 8:00 p.m.

Members Present

Julie Chatfield
Pat Ambrose
Carl Sousa
Sally Wagner
Janice Adams
John Gordon
John Norman
Jeff Sparks
Leeann Innman
Cris Williams
Larry Myer
Diane McMillan

Opening prayer-LeeAnn Inman

Call to order: Cris Williams-

Budget

- John thanked Sally and the Finance committee for putting together the budget.
- This was John's first pass at the task and he asks for an umbrella of grace.
- The budget was created by analyzing the mission of the church, historical data, and fantastic feedback from the staff. All was used to assemble the packet.
- The Finance Committee has made the recommendation to accept the 2012-2013 budget.
- It includes some marketing resources and flexibility to help fine the advertising platform that was discussed earlier.
- The budget showed an increase of \$69,000.00 and the Finance Committee feels good about the budget.
- For a complete overview of budget, see attached 2012 Proposed Budget packet.
- John highlighted variances included on the 2011 Year End Forecast.
- Janice reminded us that we need pledge forms from electronic givers for budgeting purposes.
- Many of the electronic givers are ones who have not filled out pledge forms so we were unable to use their data in creating the budget.

- Leeann stated that it's important to know we have looked at our previous year to date amounts and there are only 3-4 families who have given less.
- John believes if their budget analysis is correct, we should receive proposed funds for the 2012 budget.
- John also mentioned that our budget proposal and analysis is based on all aspects of giving and was created from a foundational standpoint.
- This budget shows you analytical information on the pledgers such as how pledging was trending. As of the end of October- from a trend standpoint and on a prorated basis- we are actually 112.9% of our pledge amount. The trend is positive.
- John mentioned that the staff provided support for their budget and though the Youth budget looks like a significant increase, the increase is reasonably supported.
- Brandon is making changes that will improve the accountability of Youth paying for events.
- Julie also put together a supported budget proposal for changes needing to take place with in the Children's Ministry.
- The floor was opened up for questions.
- Jeff wondered how the percentages tied into last year's percentages.
- John replied that he didn't know and couldn't answer because he couldn't follow the formulas that were used for last years budget.
- Leeann stated that John and she met with Mike and Sally and talked about allocations over four areas.
- We did find a few things not included in last year's charts that had to be added in.
- Jeff recalls that the Trustees budget was broken down into equal percentages.
- John agreed, stating that when you take the four numbers from last year they should add up to 100, which they do, but they knew there were some things missing.
- The foundation of the budget program passed down was great
- Jeff asked for last year's figures.
- Sally read them off. It was Children and Youth -23, Worship and Music- 28, Spiritual Growth- 17, and caring and sharing- 22.
- Jeff pointed out that the children and youth were down in percentages and asked if that was what we wanted to do?
- Cris recognized that the percentages were different from the pie chart compared to the ones listed. The money was not different but the percentages were.
- Cris asked if it's just the allocation across the groups?
- Jeff questioned if this was the amount we wanted to spend on our ministries
- Leeann supported that the staff in conjunction with the groups helped determine what we were hoping to do in 2012. Then it was affirmed, with discussion, by the finance committee.

- Leeann added that she looks for balance, understanding that there are some areas where we are going to spend more money. If there is any one grossly smaller, we need to ask ourselves questions. It's never going to be 25 across the board.
- John acknowledged that he made an error, stating that the budget in hand was the back up budget. We can count on the page with the pie chart as being correct. Or you can use the last page of the budget with the totals for accuracy.
- Jeff stated he understood what Leeann was saying but questioned if we want to run with the numbers or do we look at the percentages every year?
- John replied to look at the totals from last year and acknowledged that there were significant swings.
- He also reminded us that there were some events that took place throughout the course of the year that took up some of the receipts and that there are some new programs Brandon is looking to develop. So there will be a balance. Again everything change has been supported.
- John Norman asked if youth events cost more than they cost?
- John Gordon responded that the Finance Committee was trying to be careful. Last year events ran over significantly because they weren't completely funded by the participants.
- John Gordon stated that the finance committee is supportive of the Youth and is working on ideas that will help eliminate people from coming and not paying.
- John Norman wanted to be clear that we were expecting people to pay when they didn't pay last year.
- John Norman suggested that another part of the goal should be to have money set aside if needed and that it be budgeted.
- John Gordon agreed and said that there will also be a clearer defined expectation if you sign up, holding people financially accountable if they end up not attending the event.
- John Norman asked if anyone was able to produce how much individual Youth Activities costs?
- John Gordon replied yes, with a disclaimer. From a record keeping standpoint the data is fantastic. You sort it by event and are able to see the cost analysis. The only thing that is unclear is gas. This is changing for 2012. Gas wasn't itemized. You can make assumptions but this is an area that will be enhanced this year. This will help Brandon know in advanced and make it easier.
- John Gordon expressed that we have a strong effort from a consistency standpoint. We will try to save funds ahead of time so that we don't have the peaks and valleys.
- Cris asked if we were comfortable with this process?
- Jeff also asked if we were happy with the percentages.

- John Gordon stated that we don't know if they were the same prior to 2011, but certainly from a finance standpoint- there are significant advances being made, when you look at increased income, the fact that the loss from 2011 is projected under the loss of 2010 and based on the percentages. John feels we saw some success.
- Leeann concurred stating that from a ministry standpoint we saw success too. My husband Tom is part of stewardship and budgeting said, looking at churches with the same worship attendance- we get the best bang for the buck. We have the leanest machine around.
- Leeann also expressed that according to the Youth Ministry folks, the leadership recommends that there should be \$55,000.00 beyond the salary for programing in Youth Ministry.
- John Gordon agreed that if we want to get cranked, up we need it to be going.
- Leeann wanted to clarify that the 5% increase in salary is giving 3% back plus a 2% increase and does not include Leeann's salary.
- Cris asked for any other question and thoughts?
- John Gordon expressed that he was a little uneasy about the budget increases but that the Finance committee agrees with the increase and supports it 100%. He shared the discussion on what may happen if we exceed the budget or what if we fall short. There was talk on taking the connection giving down a notch. There are other places such as Brandon's education or the 20/20 budget. The point is, the staff knows how to roll up their sleeves to get the job done.
- Jeff wanted to make sure the connectional giving was not an easy way out if we are not meeting our numbers.
- John Gordon agreed that this is one of the reasons why the Finance Committee created a second budget.
- Jeff asked if John and his committee will report back to the Council on how the finances are looking on a quarterly basis and John agreed to do this.
- John Gordon mentioned that the finance committee did in fact endorse the budget with the higher apportionment.
- Jeff motions to approve the 2012-2013 Budget. Pat seconds. APPROVED!!!! It's passed.
- Leeann declared an acclimation to pass last month's minutes. All in favor. Passed.
- Adjourned- 9:14 p.m.