

Allied Partners

September 20, 2022

Present: Erica Anderson, Rev. Matt Aspin, Eileen Dresser, Mary Collet, Wynn Davies, Molly Plunkett, Cat Walsh

Eileen opened the meeting with a prayer. August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report (Wynn)—Wynn will be retiring as treasurer as of the end of the year. He said, "My efforts as your treasurer and representative of my church, First Baptist, have been among my most rewarding and enjoyable experiences of lay ministry." Wynn will continue to represent First Baptist.

Eviction prevention—The Eviction Prevention Fund received \$4,000 from Westminster Presbyterian Church. The fund was used to prevent eviction in one situation. The balance is currently \$8,818. Both Ryan Estrella and Erica Anderson will be drawing from this fund.

Scholarships—Dormant; no activity thus far in 2022. Balance is \$1,725. When he met with the president of Madison College, Wynn described the barriers that Allied residents face to going to school. Interest in taking leadership in drawing people to Madison College seems to be lacking. There has been no response to Wynn's follow-up letter to Madison College. He will send another. Molly said that she is willing "to beat the drum" about Madison College, and Wynn will continue to be involved. Molly wondered, "What does the neighborhood think?" Other questions: How do we get community leaders to participate? Is \$500 per scholarship adequate?

Special projects—No activity. Current balance is \$400.

Discretionary fund for Joining Forces for Families social workers—Westminster Presbyterian, whose contribution of \$1,000 in January initiated this fund, contributed an additional \$1,000 in August. Balance is now \$1,200.

Wellness Center (Erica)—♦There is a lot of division in the community, particularly over the Wellness Center. A sore point is the removal of Gloria from the staff, though she continues to work at the Center with support from Nehemiah. ♦Molly, who serves on the Wellness Center Board, described the history of the Center. Health Care Workers, who had previously been paid a stipend, are now paid wages. Two new Health Workers are undergoing certification. The Center collaborates with UW Family Medicine and Community Health; weekly meetings are held with Jane Ferguson. ♦Fresh food will continue to be delivered on Fridays through October. Essentials will be distributed on two Fridays. Volunteers are needed.

Erica noted that her church, Christ the Solid Rock, and Lake Edge Lutheran Church have been collaborating. They have common interests in attracting new people and keeping teens engaged.

Proposal for new neighborhood liquor store—Neighborhood residents generally oppose the proposal. Linda Ketchum is urging congregations to take a stand. Wynn made a motion for Allied Partners to take a position in opposition of the liquor store and communicate this to the City. The motion was accepted. Molly will find out whether the City has already made a decision. If not, she will write a letter on behalf of Allied Partners.

Congregational representation—Wynn expressed disappointment in the lack of pastoral support for Allied Partners. Matt, who is the new minister at Prairie Unitarian Society, said that pastors are wondering how to remain relevant as church membership drops. What does the community need? How can churches connect to those needs?

Other—Eileen received a voice message from a person interested in bringing together organizations that are concerned about the inadequacy of health services.