

# A SUMMARY OF OUR FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Fall Congregational Meeting took place immediately following worship on November 13. The Church Council had scheduled the meeting to begin following a slightly shortened worship service in hopes of increasing attendance. By starting the meeting at 10:50 a.m. most folks seemed happy to stay and the meeting was very well attended. Church Moderator Jason Jacque called the meeting to order and made preliminary remarks about creating and presenting the budget for 2023. The initial proposed budget was passed out to people and our Financial Administrator, Phil Stepanski, walked everyone through the major parts of the budget. The budget that was presented will be further modified by Church Council according to the pledges that are received.

Actual voting and approval of the budget will take place at the next congregational meeting January 29, 2023. The proposed draft of the 2023 budget shows a potential deficit of \$51,205, which is less than the approved \$83,761 deficit passed for 2022. Phil is predicting that the actual deficit for 2022 will be far less due to budget adjustments, careful spending and additional fundraisers like "Adopt-a-Bill" and Scrip/RaiseRight. It was also noted that a large part of church income was lost due to Port Pre-School closing their doors. Everyone was reminded that we are still searching for new tenants, and to please bring any ideas for using the space to a Council member or Pastor Scott.

There were some questions asked about the church's reserve funds that might be necessary to use in case of a budget deficit, and at this time there is about \$90,000 that could be used to help cover deficit spending. There were also questions about our current membership. And it was discussed that membership numbers were last counted in the fall of 2019 and steps are being taken for a revised membership count before the end of the year. Membership numbers could affect the amount paid for SE Association dues, which were believed to be about \$20 a member. There was other discussion about some of the terms and categories used in the budget which Phil was able to answer and clarify.

With no further questions, a motion was made to end the meeting at 11:16. Thank you to all who attended.



## FELLOWSHIP HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We host a Fellowship Hour following our 8:00 service on the first Sunday of each month, and following our 10:00 service on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other families and friends in the church. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to people you haven't met. Help newcomers to feel that, wherever they are on life's journey, they are welcome here. Please consider signing up to host a Fellowship Hour in the near future. [Click here](#) for the sign-up list. If you have any questions, please speak to Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Representative on Church Council.