

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 2013

**Members Attending:** Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Al Brunsting, Nate Burke, Nick Giannasi, George Groves, Sally Hines, Grace Imathiu, Mary Jacobs, Rich Kaffka, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Sarah Meacham, Jim McCloud, Jim Rainwaters, Forrest Rice, Elmer Schirmer, Ollie Taylor, Graham Wills, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Sarah Meacham led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the May meeting were corrected and entered into the record.

**Finance:** Rich Kaffka referred to the Finance report and reiterated that we are not out of the woods yet. George Groves commented that the good news is that we are \$25,000 ahead of where we were last year at this time. (See report.)

**Stewardship:** Al Brunsting reviewed 3 key points in the Stewardship report, 1) Summer tithing of garden, time and service, 2) Fall tithing in signing up for church ministry in service and 3) Thanksgiving tithing signing up for church ministry in dollars. He reported that the committee will be attending a conference where well known pastor Mike Slaughter will be the keynote speaker. (See report.)

**Senior Outreach:** Sylvia Kupferer talked about where we are with the hearing loop. The cost is \$12,500 for the hardware, the installation and a couple of extra hearing devices. The committee has applied for a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation that would pay up to half the cost. The grant will not notify recipients until January because of the number of applicants. We will either have to postpone the installation until we hear about the grant or look for donations to enable us to do it sooner. There is \$800 in the fund so far with more to come. Pastor Grace asked how we can develop a vision that includes all the projects that are needed instead of approaching them individually. Currently, some projects don't have advocates and get overlooked. It was suggested that we need a central list. Sally Hines said that she has considered cutting back on her main pledge because she knows there will be other appeals for funds throughout the year and wonders if others do the same. Bill Abernethy commented that he likes having the choice of supporting individual projects and historically things have gotten done when an individual sees a need and takes it on. Rich Kaffka believes we need a better process for handling requests with a Capital Expenditure Request form. He is going to give it some further thought. There was general support for moving ahead with the hearing loop but thinking about a new system for the future that encourages a process where all the requests are reviewed by the appropriate committees and considered together. (See report).

**CUMC Goals/Objectives:** Bill Abernethy reported that "owners" names have been designated on the Goals and Objectives list to clarify who is responsible for each of the goals. Al Brunsting suggested indicators should be included to show where we are with each goal and George Groves suggested adding action steps. Bill said the team will discuss the suggestions and see what they can come up with. Forrest Rice noted that he is uncomfortable with item #4 and the focus on numbers in reducing the rolls instead of focusing on a process that ensures we are eliminating the people who are truly no longer connected to the church. His suggestion was taken under advisement.

**Attendance:** Mary Jacobs reported that attendance is continuing to increase. (See report).

**Youth Ministry:** Nick Giannasi reported that the work trip will take place in a couple of weeks and this year the work trip is being run in conjunction with the Mission Committee. A good group of students have signed up for the trip. Forty two people volunteered at Rib Fest. In the past we have received about \$1200 from helping. This year it may be even more.

**Evangelism:** Jim Rainwaters reviewed upcoming events being sponsored by the Evangelism team. There will be an ice cream social at an upcoming band concert. The church will put out brochures and information

at the social. Money raised will go towards PADS. There will be an activity around National Night Out during the first week in August. (See report).

**General Comments:** George Groves mentioned that the Illinois legislature had passed a Firearms Conceal and Carry bill and wondered whether the church needed to post something related to this bill. It is believed that churches are exempt but Bill will monitor this, check with the conference, and connect with the Trustees who will report back to the council if anything needs to be done. Forrest Rice commented that he was unhappy about a blood drive being held in the church that gave out coupons for Oberweiss ice cream because the head of that enterprise has worked hard against civil rights issues. Mary Markwell said the promotion was determined by the organization running the blood drive and the church had nothing to do with it. Bill Abernethy said that promoting the blood drive did not indicate the church supported Oberweiss' stance on those issues. Forrest has passed his comments on to the person who headed up the drive.

**Pastor Grace:** Sarah Meacham is an Associate Pastor and is not an assistant, assisting the lead pastor. Pastor Grace emphasized that Pastor Sarah has been called for a particular ministry and would have been appointed as a solo pastor if we had not been lucky enough to get her. Pastor Grace also emphasized that there are four important pillars of our DNA as a community: 1) Strong Pulpit/preaching, 2) Strong Music Department, 3) Strong Christian Education and 4) Strong support of Missions. She believes we have work to do to reclaim our calling in these areas. Since January 1 we have welcomed 160 first time guests to our congregation. The congregation is wonderful about welcoming. The congregation has not yet mastered the art of inviting. Experts tell us people decide to join a church based on the three P's – the property, the people, the pastor. The people of CUMC express their love for each other through our strong and healthy Sunday School classes but when people disperse to the classes it leaves guests and others who are not plugged in to the classes downstairs with only the pastors. It is something to consider. Pastor Grace believes a healthy church starts with healthy pastors who are rooted in the Gospel. She asked the council members to pray every day for Pastor Sarah and her.

**Pastor Sarah:** Pastor Sarah believes her appointment is right for her and right for Community. She is excited and believes God is doing something here.

Pastor Grace led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on September 11, 2013.

(See additional reports from the Building Committee, the Christian Education Committee, the Hunger Commission, the Staff Parish Committee and the Trustee Committee.)

Sally Hines  
Secretary