

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 11, 2013

**Members Attending:** Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Pat Becker, Nate Burke, Brenda DeGeer, Nick Giannasi, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Dave Hollander, Rev. Grace Imathiu, Mary Jacobs, Rich Kaffka, Sarah Meacham, Jim McCloud, Forrest Rice, Elmer Schirmer, Ollie Taylor, Graham Wills

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and read a remembrance of 9/11.

Minutes of the May meeting were entered into the record.

**Finance:** Rich Kaffka pointed out that there will be a need for direction if we get to the point where we run low on cash. Church giving is below our projected budget and has dropped off during the summer. While traditionally many people catch up their pledges in the fall we cannot count on that happening. Unpledged giving is also down. We are behind on our apportionment pledges. At some point we might have to choose what gets paid or what gets cut. Rich asked the council who will make those calls. Pastor Grace suggested this issue should be raised at the upcoming Church Conference. The discussion suggested the Staff Parish budget is adequate but it may not be allocated correctly. Beth Hagemeyer said each committee should speak for the congregation. (See report.)

**Christian Education:** Beth Hagemeyer said there is a need for a part-time Christian Education Director. The volunteers are burned out. This issue will be brought up at the church conference. Bill Abernethy questioned whether we could get along with a volunteer but Beth feels strongly that it is not possible to get volunteers to do what a deacon would be able to do. There is a need for someone who is theologically trained. (See report). Graham Wills said the Staff Parish Committee backs the recommendation we hire a Christian Education. Pastor Sarah said it was made clear to here that she would not be acting as Christian Education Director long term. When a question arose about volunteers filling some of the jobs, Pastor Grace suggested volunteers could do all the jobs but the programs will not grow that way. Council Chair Bill Abernethy summarized the discussion and told the Staff Parish Committee to make whatever changes need to be made in order to hire a part-time Christian Education Director within the current budget.

**Library:** Forrest Rice reported that the library will be honoring the work of Gertie Brown, a long-time member, by placing a plaque in her name in the library. A moment of recognition will be held at the Saturday Night service attended by the members who knew her best.

Bill Abernethy noted that the Open Circle Sunday School class had purchased a screen, projector, DVD table and other equipment which the class is offering as a resource to other groups in the church. The equipment is in the Open Circle classroom.

Bill also asked that everyone provide feedback on the "To Do List Status Report" prior to the November council meeting.

**Community UMC Foundation:** George Groves reminded everyone that Financial Peace University classes are to be held every Wednesday. (See report.)

**Trustees:** Jim McCloud reported that there is an all church work day October 19th. (See report.)

**Pastor Grace:** Pastor Grace reminded everyone that there is an all Church Conference on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. with the new District Superintendent Dick Wisdom. She asked for prayers for both pastors every day.

Pastor Sarah led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting is Nov. 13, 2013.

Sally Hines  
Secretary

See additional reports from the Senior Outreach Ministry, the Hunger Commission and Evangelism.