

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 13, 2013

**Members Attending:** Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Nate Burke, Brenda DeGeer, Nick Giannasi, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Rev. Grace Imathiu, Mary Jacobs, Rich Kaffka, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Rev. Sarah Meacham, Jim McCloud, Forrest Rice, Elmer Schirmer, Ollie Taylor, Joan Uebele, Graham Wills, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read an opening meditation.

Minutes of the September meeting were entered into the record.

**Finance:** Rich Kaffka began by asking for feedback on the Tidings article about our current operating cash position. The projection states that while we will have a net income of \$15K there will be an operating income shortfall of about \$4,000. Graham Wills pointed out that the \$15K net income is after paying our full apportionment. Mary Markwell asked what Rich believes we should have in the bank for cash reserves. He believes 2 ½ to 3 months income or \$100K to \$150K should be in reserve. Graham suggested that we include \$25K in the budget for reserves each year for the next five years. Rich distributed Planning Guides to the chairs for use in the budget process. (See report.)

**Stewardship:** Al Brunsting discussed a report he created on the Stewardship Campaign which showed an increase in pledging per giving unit compared to last year while the number of pledging units has declined. The full results of the campaign will not be known for another couple of months. Pastor Grace said that the fact that more people have increased their pledges is evidence of a core group with increased determination. Bill Abernethy commented that things were encouraging. (See report at the end of minutes)

**Senior Outreach Ministry:** Sylvia Kupferer commented that the team that began the hearing loop project never expected it to be viewed as a capital expense included in the church budget. They had always planned on paying for it with donations. CUMC is the first church in Naperville to have this equipment. She has met with the Board of Trustees to talk about the project. Currently two sets of headphones will be purchased for those whose hearing aids do not include the "T coil" required to connect to the system. A letter will be sent on Monday to potential users to determine if they have hearing aids that will work and if not whether they would use headphones. Sylvia is ready to move ahead with the contract and is expecting installation to take place in February. Rich Kaffka commented that we got a really good price on the system. (See report.)

**Parish Nurses:** Joan Uebele reported that the Parish Nurses had put together an Emergency Medical Protocol after an emergency occurred in an adult Sunday School class recently. She said many people in the church are not aware that there is a defibrillator (AED) located in the back of the sanctuary. The council reviewed the 8 point protocol. Beth Hagemeyer suggested the protocol be posted in every classroom and Bill Abernethy added it should also be near every entrance. Beth suggested a public phone (landline) on each floor to contact 911. George Groves suggested listing the names of all the Parish Nurses. Ollie said the protocol should be published in Tidings and put in the announcements with the church bulletin. Joan announced a CPR class will be held on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested. (See copy of Protocol).

**Motion:** Joan Uebele moved that the Protocol for Medical Emergencies be made part of our procedures at CUMC and be posted in public places. George Groves seconded. The motion carried.

**Library:** Forrest Rice reported that the special recognition and reception for Gertie Brown went very well. Gertie took the plaque with her to the hospital to show friends and family and it is now back at the church.

**CUMC To Do List 2013-14:** Bill Abernethy commented he has had difficulty getting updates on the items on the list. Pastor Sarah asked for more information about #9 (Outreach programs). Bill said we need to know if they are still active or not. Dale Zimmerman commented on #10 (Building Committee) and said there is a church conference on Sunday. Discussion followed.

**Building Committee:** Dale Zimmerman reported that the total cost for the building project is \$3.5M. We will be looking at a 3 year plan for the Capital campaign as information shows that 5 year campaigns do not work well. We will need approval to move ahead at Sunday's church conference. The Building Committee is interviewing four consultants about handling the campaign. If the vote is "yes" the consultant will begin with a feasibility study. The estimated cost is \$9,600. The study is a very intensive process. Rich Kaffka commented that the study will provide an estimate of how much money we can expect to raise and is usually accurate. The Building Committee will then have to meet with the Northern Illinois Conference Church Location & Building Committee to get approval. If we are projected to raise less than the total amount we will look at breaking the project down into phases. Then the Capital Campaign will take place. The details of phase one will be communicated to the congregation before the money is spent and a vote will be taken.

**CUMC To Do List 2013-14 (continued):** #4 (Reduce membership rolls) Pastor Grace met with Gary Chipman, Mary Jacobs and Marianna McCauley and letters will go out on Monday to 200 out of state members who have been inactive for the last 5 years asking them to declare their wishes in regard to CUMC membership. The letters request a return of the form by January 1. #3 (Achieve sustainable average attendance of 300/350/400) Mary Jacobs suggested that while she can report observable figures this item really is the responsibility of the whole congregation. Al Brunsting suggested we need several major milestones for each item on the list. Bill Abernethy said he would take that into consideration and the list will be carried forward to January when we will review what to keep and what to drop.

**Nominations Committee:** Nate Burke reported that Pat Becker is the new Chair of the Missions Committee. Rich Kaffka has agreed to chair Finance for another year. Kevin Markwell, Miriam Ferguson and Paige McGee are new additions to the Missions Committee.

**Community UMC Foundation:** George Groves reported that \$8,600 from the General Endowment fund, \$2,400 from the Music Endowment fund and \$600 from the Building Endowment fund will be distributed during the first quarter of 2014. (See report.)

**Christian Education:** Beth Hagemeyer reported that Staff Parish is looking for a Christian Education Director. There is currently no Children's Church because there is no one to lead it and they are discussing how to handle the problem until the new Christian Ed Director is on board.

**Trustees:** Jim McCloud reported that the heating problem in rooms 307 and 308 has been fixed and they are no longer controlled by one thermostat. The boiler has had some issues but is now working well.

**Pastor Sarah:** Pastor Sarah was grateful for the enthusiasm around the open house held at the Lansdale parsonage and talked about how we must continue this spirit of hospitality and extend invitations to guests and a warm welcome to visitors. She is hoping that Welcome Sunday (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month) will become part of our DNA. She expressed gratitude to the Christian Ed team and hopes to find new volunteers to assist with Children's Church while we work to hire a Christian Ed Director.

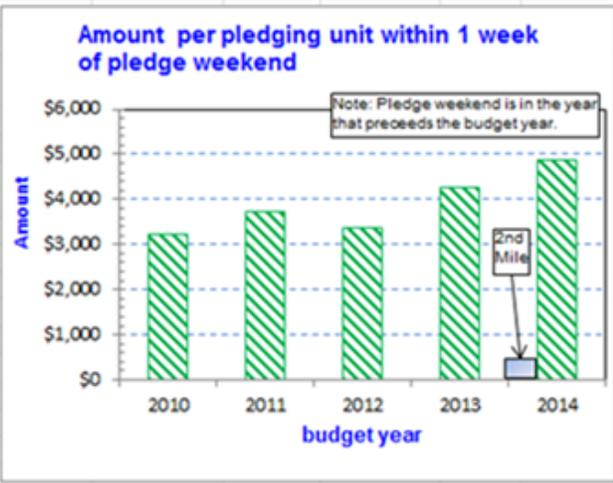
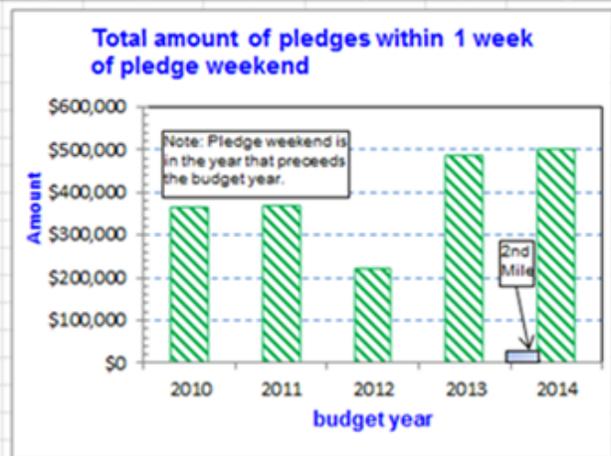
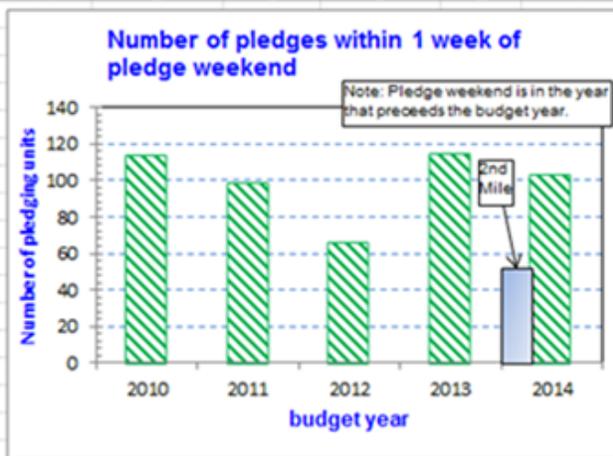
**Pastor Grace:** Pastor Grace reviewed her joys (pastoral visits with Gertie Brown, a new college student Sunday school class, the appointment of Mari Schirmer as Financial Secretary and the upcoming celebration for Marianna's ministry) and her frustrations (trying to fill the gap with staff and volunteers during a busy December, and while the number of children in church has tripled and we currently have no Children's Church).

**Motion: Elmer Schirmer moved that the \$8,600 from the foundation go to the Hearing Loop project. If the project doesn't need that much money the balance would go toward operating expenses. Sylvia Kupferer seconded. The motion carried.**

Nick Giannasi led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting is Jan. 8, 2014.

Sally Hines  
Secretary

See additional reports from the Hunger Commission, the Music Ministry and the Staff Parish Committee.



Budget year	No. of pledges	Total amt.	Amt. per pledge	
2010	114	\$368,477	\$3,232	
2011	99	\$369,925	\$3,737	
2012	66	\$222,024	\$3,364	
2013	115	\$488,330	\$4,246	
2014	103	\$503,314	\$4,887	Total, 1st & 2nd Mile
2014	56	\$28,842	\$515	2nd Mile only

From Mari at 4:00pm, Nov. 13, '13.

Persons with a THIS Year pledge: 170  
 Persons with a NEXT Year pledge 103  
 Persons who pledged THIS year but not NEXT Year 85. Those are the ones we are waiting for and will follow up on.  
 Persons who pledged NEXT Year but not this year 18

Persons who pledged the same amt: 30  
 Persons who increased their pledge 45  
 Persons who decreased their pledge 10

AB's conclusions.

- Amount pledged per giving unit increased by \$640, compared to last year. This means that more people are moving toward a tithe.
- There were fewer pledges this year compared to last year (103 vs. 115). Veterans Day weekend probably affected this.
- Even though the number of pledges declined, the total amount increased (\$503K vs. \$488K)
- The Stewardship committee will follow-up with the non-responders. We have a plan.
- For our 2014 budget we should probably not plan on an increase in revenues.