

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2014

*(to be reviewed and corrected/approved by the council at the next meeting Jan. 5, 2014)*

**Members Attending:** Bill Abernethy, Al Brunsting, Pat Becker, Nate Burke, Brenda DeGeer, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Rich Kaffka, Sylvia Kupferer, Jim McCloud, Lauren Rheingans, Betsy Roche, Ollie Taylor, Jennifer Weddle, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and read thoughts on veterans.

Minutes of the September meeting were entered into the record.

**Staff Parish:** Betsy Roche reported that there were three motions made at the church conference. The District Superintendent instructed her to word the motions without details on the pastors' compensation. The SPRC report includes the details. Pastor Grace received a 3% increase which brings her salary to \$75,190, \$3,000 of which has been designated as accountable reimbursements. Pastor Sarah received a 2% increase which brings her salary to \$42,840, \$4,000 of which has been designated as accountable reimbursements. Health insurance and pension benefits are also included for both pastors as per the standard for the conference. Discussion followed on the fact that the information has always been given at the conference meeting previously and some people may have felt it was difficult to approve something without knowing the numbers. It was agreed that people with questions should be directed to the minutes and the SPRC report on-line and in the church office. The committee is working to fill the open positions and has some interviews scheduled next week. Al Brunsting mentioned that salary and benefits will be below budget in 2014 and asked whether it was expected to continue that way. It is too early to tell. (See report).

**Finance:** Rich Kaffka said we are in an excellent cash position and things are looking pretty good. The Youth program and the expenses related to the past harsh winter are the only exceptions. If people want more details they can look at the Finance report or the minutes of the Finance committee. The 2015 budget is not ready to be presented at this meeting. Brenda DeGeer said that the committee is waiting until the groups come up with the budget numbers. Next year, the 2016 budget will be done by November of 2015. Rich said the work on the 2015 budget is 95% complete. Rich asked the Financial Secretary how the pledges look for the operating budget but it is too early to project. Much more will be known after next weekend. (See report).

**Senior Outreach:** Sylvia Kupferer reported that there is a new Senior Outreach brochure designed by Suzanne Wills. The new name of the group will be "Senior Outreach Ministries for All Generations." STARS - Spiritual Time for Renewal for all Survivors will be the new name of the organization that was previously focused on stroke survivors. The senior outreach team is going to combine the fellowship and the reminiscence services. The activities are posted on the new sign on Benton. Our quilt won the contest at Cedarlake Village and the prize was \$1,000. The hearing loop has had some problems and it has been temporarily disconnected in Fellowship Hall until it is fixed. Dale Zimmerman has talked to the architect about it. (See report.)

**UMW:** Beth Hagemeyer reported that Harvest of the Hands made \$2780. Two hundred people came to shop but only forty were from the church according to a rough count. There is discussion about whether Harvest of the Hands will continue next year.

**Community United Methodist Foundation:** George Groves reported that the foundation will be giving the following endowments to the church: \$9,300 general fund; \$2,400 music fund; \$600 building fund. Rich Kaffka asked how the foundation determines what amount goes back to the church. The amount is based on a 12 quarter rolling average and 5% is returned to the church unless it begins to cut into the original principle. Al Brunsting asked what the ROI was for last year and George said about 5%. The details were covered in the report to the church conference. All endowed funds are invested with the conference in socially responsible investments.

Bill Abernethy said that some members of the council will be rotating off next year. He thanked those who have served.

**Pastor Grace:** Pastor Grace brought Pastor Sarah's apologies for not being at the meeting but she is on NCTV this evening with Chris Garafolo and Greg Hubert talking about the church. There will be a special concert on Christmas Eve at 10 p.m. before the 11 p.m. service. The services are as follows:

5:00 p.m. Family service - the children will sing

7:00 p.m. Contemporary service

10:00 p.m. Concert

11:00 p.m. Traditional service with communion

We will have musicians for all three services and we need to arrange food and drinks for them.

The challenge for this Sunday (Commitment Sunday) is how to make it about more than just money.

Nominations: We have had some resignations. Nancy Abernethy has retired as chair of the Hunger Commission and Elmer Schirmer has retired from the Foundation and Finance committees. Mary Wu has resigned from Nominations and Alana Shuma has resigned from Records and History. Pat Stockner is moving away and will be leaving the Library committee.

**A motion was made that Lynda Krazinski serve a second three year term on the Foundation. The motion carried.**

Rich Fleming has agreed to serve as Chair of the Church Council for one year. The Finance Chair is also leaving at the end of this year. Pastor Grace proposed a church council meeting be held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the purpose of setting the business of the church for the year including the budget and the lay leadership.

Pastor Grace thanked Bill Abernethy for his leadership as Chair of the Church Council.

Pastor Grace led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 5, 2015.

(See additional reports from the Building, Missions and Stewardship Committees, the Hunger Commission and the Music Ministry.)

Sally Hines  
Secretary