

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2015

Members Attending: Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Pat Becker, Nate Burke, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Sally Hines, Dave Hollander, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Rich Kaffka, Jim McCloud, Pastor Sarah Meacham, Lynn Pries, Betsy Roche, Elmer Schirmer, Ollie Taylor, Jennifer Weddle, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and led the council in prayer.

Rich reviewed the duties of the church council as they are spelled out in the Book of Discipline. There was a discussion on the council's role in making recommendations on the compensation, benefits and housing for the pastor(s) and church staff. It was agreed that the recommendations originate in the SPRC, the council reviews them and the charge conference approves them.

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

Nominations: Pastor Grace, acting Chair of Nominations, reviewed the nominations for 2015. They are: Lynn Pries, Chair of Evangelism; Paul Dude, Chair of Finance; Pastor Grace Imathiu, Chair of Nominations; Joyce Brunsting, Vice Chair of Nominations; Sally Hines, Chair of Hunger Commission; Chris Garofalo, Music Ministries. Elmer Schirmer will continue as Member-At-Large.

Pastor Grace also proposed a new Worship committee be convened. This would be an umbrella committee covering all three worship services (5 pm Sat., 8:30 Sun. and 11:00 Sun.). The committee will consist of one person from each service. They are to be a visionary committee that will make recommendations on how we can sharpen and improve our worship services in their separate styles but remain one family.

Motion: Pastor Grace moved that we approve the slate of nominations and establish a Worship Committee. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Grace reported that both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Trustees had reached their limit in terms and were scheduled to take a year off before they could serve again. The trustees felt this would be difficult and asked that Jim McCloud be able to remain on Trustees for another year while Sam Leventry took a year off.

Motion: Pastor Grace moved that Jim McCloud be allowed to stay on the Trustees for another year. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Finance: Rich Kaffka reviewed the budget. The methodology used to arrive at the revenue numbers is sound. Rich recommended that the account for special giving to Apportionments (4120.02) be eliminated but said that is up to the committee and the new chair. He suggested we should keep a close eye on the Buck Services contract over the coming year. There was a question about why no money was allocated for the hearing loop and the answer was that it is paid for so there is no further need for funds. There was a question about carryover from last year and Brenda said that \$70 K was carried over. There was a question about the reduction in the apportionment and it was determined that the apportionment went down about \$10,000. Rich commented that the Finance committee has excellent minutes which are available in the church office.

Motion: Rich moved that the budget be approved. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Parish: Betsy Roche reported that the committee is halfway through the year of discernment. She clarified that it is the positions that are interim roles while we make sure we have developed the job descriptions and determined the correct salaries. The "interim" designation is not meant to be a reflection on the people we have hired.

Stewardship: Al Brunsting reviewed a Stewardship and Building-to-Serve Report. Ninety two percent of the church's revenues come from pledged giving. Report highlights included 1) the total amount pledged in

2015 and 2014 are almost the same. The building to serve campaign did not result in reduced pledging. 2) Pledging for 2013 – 2015 is up about 25% over pledging for 2000 – 2012. 3) Average worship attendance is nearly the same for 2013 and 2014 as is the average amount pledged. 4) As of Dec. 28, 2014 the amount pledged for Building to Serve was \$1,801.697. (See report for details and charts.)

A discussion around how we might increase pledging towards the operating budget included the following comments: Consultants told us that giving for a building appeal doesn't come from the same source as money for pledges. Generosity begets generosity. The building to serve committee made a good case for the need for the building improvements. The individual testimonials were especially powerful. We should build a strategic budget based on what we want to accomplish. Giving might have historical basis...early members made important investments that we have enjoyed for years and now was the time for us to do the same.

Community United Methodist Foundation: George Groves reported that the foundation has given the following endowments to the church: \$9,300 general fund; \$2,400 music fund. Since 2000 the foundation has returned \$107,900 to the church. A luncheon is being planned for the 1837 society (members who have included the foundation in their wills and trusts). Financial Peace University is scheduled for January 25.

United Methodist Men: George said there were 3 meetings last year and the group took on numerous service projects including home repairs.

Youth Ministry: Adam Cook reported that a planning meeting was held last Sunday. A schedule of activities has been created through August. A New Year event is planned and postcards will be out soon.

Missions: Pat Becker reported that the Missions committee is once again working with the Joliet United Methodist church and is currently developing a list of projects they will undertake.

United Methodist Women: Jennifer Weddle reported that a new Rock-a-thon fundraiser involving rocking chairs is in the planning stages.

Music Ministries: Chris Garofalo thanked Nancy Ebel and Rosemary Zimmerman for the hospitality that was shown to the musicians on Christmas Eve. (See report).

Membership: Gary Chipman reported that there will be a new CMS (church management system) software program being utilized in the office.

Pastor Sarah: Pastor Sarah said her ordination papers had been filed and thanked the church for our support.

Hunger Commission: Sally Hines reported that so far the Heifer project has raised over \$5,600. Special recognition was due the young people who held a raffle for pie throwing which raised a significant amount of money. The church gave out 167 lunches last year and donated almost 1000 pounds of food to Loaves & Fishes. (See report).

Evangelism: Lynn Pries said he was looking forward to being the chair of Evangelism. He also told a moving story about Bishop Job who passed away recently.

Rich Fleming asked if the March council meeting could be held on February 25th instead of in March and the council agreed to the change in dates.

Pastor Grace: In recognition of the start of a new year, Pastor Grace served Communion to the council and led the council in the Lord's Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. (See additional reports for Missions and Senior Outreach).

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary