

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2015

Members Attending: Al Brunsting, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Sally Hines, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Lynn Pries, Elmer Schirmer, Jennifer Weddle, Pastor Sarah.

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

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

Membership: Gary Chipman reported that through June 30, 2015 we have added 12 new members, 7 of which were confirmands, and have lost 12 members, 8 of whom died. We have had 6 baptisms. Rich asked Gary how many people we currently have on the rolls and Gary responded over 1200. Gary is working with Pastor Grace to set limits for inclusion on the list. If there is no activity (attendance or donations) for a designated period the names will be removed. The easiest way to do that is to inactivate everyone and then re-activate those who meet the criteria. Rich Fleming asked Gary to bring the updated numbers to the September Council meeting.

Evangelism: Lynn Pries commented that there are two areas the Evangelism Committee will focus on: 1) the way we invite people and 2) the way we welcome people. Lynn will attend the Church of the Resurrection workshop in September. Several people have joined the Evangelism Committee. Lynn plans to develop a strategy and plan for the entire year. (See report) Al Brunsting reported on the recent Pew research showing that mainline Protestant churches have declined by 3.4% (from 18.1% to 14.7% of church membership) over the period of 2007 to 2014. The Northern Illinois Conference has had almost exactly the same decline. Church leadership needs to help visitors plug in to the best small groups. A discussion followed on the best way to do that. Rich asked Lynn to bring a copy of the small group list to the next meeting. Comments included: we need people who are in their prime years because they represent the future, it is hard to find the small groups on the web-site, and we should talk with Urban Village church. Lynn will follow up with Urban Village.

Trustees: Jim McCloud reported that it might be in our best interest to retire the mortgage on the church and he had looked into it. We could get a new mortgage from Lisle Savings on the 707 Sara Lane property that would reduce our payment from \$2067 to \$1947 over a period of 138 months with closing costs of \$1622. The house is worth \$360,000 and the mortgage would be for \$227,000. The concern is around getting a loan to cover expenses for the building project before all the money pledged has been received. Brenda said it would depend on whether the line of credit is based on just the church building or includes all the assets. Rich suggested we need to find out what the bank is considering. Jim McCloud will talk to Jim Davidson who is working on the loan.

Finance: Treasurer Brenda DeGeer reported that the year was going extremely well until June when things slowed down. The drop is expected and we seem to experience it every year. Brenda said she is happy we are building a reserve. We need to build a strong foundation and we are doing that. There was a discussion regarding the presentation to the bank for the loan. Al Brunsting asked about the issue around pensions and Rich said that it has not been finalized. Paul Dude said it is not a cause for alarm because it is a small amount and will not affect the bigger picture but we will receive continuing information on the problem as they work to solve it. (See report.)

No. Illinois Conference Report: Mary Markwell said a more formal report will be given by the team to the entire congregation. The theme was "Being Replenished" and there is a long list of joys. CUMC was once again designated a Rainbow Covenant Church although we didn't place first. We were recognized

for paying our full apportionment. The Aurora District won the Bishop's Trophy for highest per member donations to the "Justice for Our Neighbor Appeal." The legislation on global economic justice supported by our church was passed without challenge. Dr. Howard Mueller received the Francis Asbury Award. Our former pastor Mark Jacobs was honored upon his retirement. The highlight was the ordination of our own Pastor Sarah who was supported by 60 CUMC members who attended. A discussion followed on whether the conference has a plan to deal with the decline in average worship attendance. Rich asked Al to write an email to Superintendent Dick Wisdom that he would co-sign about whom in the conference has responsibility for dealing with the issue and what initiatives have been planned. Adam Cook commented that CUMC needs to figure out our own initiatives and plan.

Rich reported that Forrest Rice is ill and we would deal with the agenda item on the CUMC senior program at the next meeting. Sylvia Kupferer said she has been working with Forrest on his ideas for the program.

Round Table:

- Al Brunsting reported for Joyce Brunsting and the Nomination Committee. An Ad Hoc committee on parking issues has been formed. The committee will be chaired by Matt Rader and members include Patricia Gruber, Tom Kupferer and Bob and Judy Smith.
- Adam Cook announced that the youth program is on track with fundraising for the summer mission trip. More will be going on the trip this year than last.
- George Groves mentioned several upcoming activities for United Methodist Men including one in September at Williams Bay where Pastor Grace will be speaking
- Mary Markwell said the Knitting Circle will hold a retreat at the end of September at Wesley Woods. The group is also planning on holding a sale at Christmas.
- Sylvia Kupferer thanked Pastor Sarah for her participation at the new monthly service at the Ecumenical Adult Day Care Center which was very successful.
- Chris Garafolo reported that the Mozart's Sister concert was more successful than expected which will enable us to have another offering on Claude Debussy in October. The Sunday afternoon concerts will bring in new people who are not members of the church.
- Rich Fleming said that since Beth Hagemeyer has taken the position of Children's Christian Education Director there is a need for a new Chair for the Christian Education Committee.
- Rich also said that there was a mechanical issue with the door that caused some problems. There is a new procedure to get into the church during off hours. The doors are open on Mon., Tues., Wed., and Thurs. from 8 am to 8:30 p.m., on Fri. from 8 am to 4:30 p.m. and on Sat. from 4 pm to 8:30 p.m. To get in during other hours, contact the church office for a key which will be programmed to let you in at the time requested.

Pastor Sarah: Pastor Sarah thanked everyone for helping while Pastor Grace has been on vacation. She particularly thanked the Care Teams who have been overworked with all the funerals, Nikki Young who has been a great asset as well as the very supportive staff. She closed by reading James 1:19 and leading a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (See additional reports for Building, Christian Education, Finance, Missions, Music, Trustees, Sr. Outreach, SPRC and Stewardship).

The next meeting will be held on Sept. 9, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary