

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 9, 2015

**Members Attending:** Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Dave Hollander, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Lynn Pries, Elmer Schirmer, Jennifer Weddle, Pastor Sarah Meacham, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

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

**Finance:** Brenda DeGeer reported that as of July 31 things are going well. The church is ahead of budget and last year's numbers. The reports have been changed to show the Building Fund and the Trustee Fund next to the Operating Fund which gives a clearer financial picture. A transfer of \$29,600 was made from the Operating Fund to the Trustees Fund to repay the loan made some time ago. Members did a good job of keeping their pledges up to date over the summer. Expenses are under control. (See report.)

Paul Dude said that the Finance Committee is meeting monthly and they will discuss how we can carry out programs responsibly. Each era has new opportunities to act on financial responsibility. The balanced budget is an example. The results of the visioning conducted by this committee may be brought to the Council.

**Building Committee:** The Naperville Plan Commission approved the building plans unanimously according to Building Committee Chair Dale Zimmerman. The City Council will take up the plans on September 15<sup>th</sup>. During the pre-construction phase the architects will meet with the general contractor and the sub-contractors will be chosen. A schedule will be established. Groundbreaking is expected to take place in the Spring of 2016. When the planning is completed a contract will be signed with a "maximum not to exceed" clause. There was discussion about applying for a loan. One will not be needed before 2016 but Jim McCloud suggested we might want to apply for one now because interest rates may go up. We also may want to file for a permit before January 1 so we do not have to meet any new guidelines that go into effect in 2016.

**Staff Parish Relations:** Dave Hollander reported for Betsy Roche. The committee has completed the year of discernment and is thrilled with the staff that has been put in place. Job descriptions have been written. An employee guidebook has been completed. Standards have been set. The committee has supported several ministerial candidates. There is still an enormous amount of work to do.

**Stewardship:** Al Brunsting reported that the Stewardship Campaign will start Sunday. He stated that this is a very generous congregation. An "over the top" building appeal did not affect pledged giving. The Stewardship campaign will be similar to the ones we've held for the last three years. There will be testimonials at all 3 worship services. The theme is "Called to Serve A, B, C's." Presentations will be made to the adult Sunday school classes along with articles in Tidings, mailings and emails.

**Nominations:** Joyce Brunsting, Pastor Grace and Ollie Taylor make up the Nominations Committee. A new Worship Committee has been formed. Marty Schwab, Rosemary Zimmerman, Genevieve Spiegler, Graham Wills, and Spencer Hubert will be members. There is need for a new Education chair since Beth Hagemeyer has taken the position of Director of Children's Education but they have not found one yet. Amanda Zigterman is joining the Education Committee. Ann Steele, Jeff Haake, and Sally Hines are joining SPRC and Dave Hollander will serve another term. The committee is still looking for a young person to join SPRC. Trish Ajaime is joining Missions and Jack Dabrowski is joining the Trustees.

Forrest Rice is retiring so there is a need for a chair for the Library as well as someone to serve as an Acolyte Coordinator. There was a discussion about needing to have people from all age groups involved. Sylvia mentioned that there may be a “telethon” or phone survey conducted to find out seniors’ interests. Adam Cook said that there is a decline in church attendance among young people and churches need to adapt to that community’s needs.

**Pastor Grace:** Caring for others is prominent when she visits our elderly and ill congregants. Pastor Grace talked about several recent visits with people in assisted living and even under hospice care who asked about others or mentioned they have been praying for other members. The new Stewardship Campaign theme “A,B,C’s of Called to Serve” means we will be getting back to basics, including our mission and vision. A new Pads Director has volunteered to take on that position. Pastor Sarah commented that a change has taken place in the church that has grown organically out of who we are. There is now transparency about everything that is going on at the church.

### **Round Table:**

- Jennifer Weddle said that UMW will be holding a gathering once a month.
- Adam Cook announced that the youth program will be trying new things. Rich Fleming added that he was very moved by the kids dedication on the mission trip.
- Beth Hagemeyer reported that the Sunday School kick off is this Sunday. There will be a brunch for teachers and kids and the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be given Bibles in church. Sunday School is changing and will begin with a large group opening that Sarah Hollander will lead. All adults are invited to sign up to come to one of the opening sessions and talk for 5 minutes about themselves and their experiences at CUMC.
- George Groves reminded the Council that Pastor Grace is the lead speaker at the congress the week after next. Individuals can register on-line. There have been no registrants for Financial Peace University so far so it may not take place this year.
- Pat Becker had an interesting discussion with someone from Trinity Church in Joliet, the church we have partnered with over the last couple of years. The church has about 80 attendees and the giving is growing but they do not have enough money to see them through the end of the year. The Mission Committee is planning a fall mission trip. The work in the community we have been helping in the Honduras may be finished but there is another community called “La Carbonera” that has needs and the committee is considering a medical mission trip.
- Jim McCloud said the Trustees are waiting for a part to fix the handicapped door.
- Sylvia said the quilters have hung a quilt they have made in the Sanctuary. There will be a quilt show on October 4<sup>th</sup> and the quilt will be offered to the congregation with a silent auction.
- Lynn Priess is working on establishing the Evangelism Committee and currently has 5 people willing to serve. He will be contacting a few more. He has been getting the reports on visitors. There will be a membership class beginning at the end of September.
- Pastor Sarah commented on the North Central breakfast where people from churches are invited to meet students and bring them to their churches for services after the breakfast. We need someone to attend to represent CUMC.
- Forrest Rice announced that there will be a used book sale in the library for the next 3 weekends. A lot of work has been completed in the library. Updated books have been added to the system. He is currently looking for the “Living the Questions” DVD set that has disappeared.
- George Groves thanked Forrest for his dedication to the library and the council concurred.
- Gary Chipman reported that in early August he and Suzanne Wills used the new software system to work on establishing a realistic list of active church members. They used attendance and pledge records from 2010 to the present and identified 1566 active members and 2794 inactives. The lists includes children. The number of family units was reduced to 919 from 2468. They are still working on paring the list down further.
- Chris Garafolo said that the choir is off to a strong start. There are 2 concerts coming up this fall, one with Henry Pleas and one with Megan Wells.

- Pastor Grace reminded everyone that the Church Conference is November 12<sup>th</sup> and reports are due October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Sally Hines said that the Hunger Commission had supplied 178 lunches to people who drop in to the office looking for assistance. Last year at this time there had been 113 given out. The children decorated the lunch bags. Over 1200 lbs. of food has been given to Loaves & Fishes.

Al Brunsting reminded the Council that there was an open item from the last meeting regarding the decline in worship attendance in mainline protestant churches. Al wrote a letter to the Bishop and received a response which has been posted. The letter is motivational for laity and raises other discussion points. Rich suggested that he, Al and Pastor Sarah meet to discuss the issue.

**Pastor Sarah:** Pastor Sarah talked about the meeting held after church the previous Sunday to talk about the Syrian refugee crisis. The conclusion was that those in attendance would pray daily, educate themselves about the problems and try to discern what can be done to help. For the month of September we will be studying the book of James. There are three levels of involvement and council members should try to do all three but certainly the first two. They are: 1) Attend worship 2) Follow the reading plan for the book of James 3) Attend the Bible Study on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. She closed by reading James 1: 1-11 and leading a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. (See additional reports for Music, Sr. Outreach, Parking Committee, Stewardship, Trustees and Evangelism).

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 11, 2015 at 7 p.m. Chair Rich Fleming announced there will be a special meeting on Dec. 2, 2015 at 7 p.m. to approve the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary