

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2016

Members Attending: Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Pastor Sarah Casey, Adam Cook, Ed Cotner, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Sally Hines, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Susan Keaton, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Mark Overstreet, Lynn Pries, Betsy Roche, Ollie Taylor, Jennifer Weddle, Mike Wu, Dale Zimmerman Guest: June Green

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as written.

Finance: Paul Dude reported that The Treasurer's report is on-line since Brenda could not attend this meeting. The Finance Committee took no action at their last meeting. An audit of the credit card policy will be a topic at the next Finance Committee meeting. (See report)

Reconciling Core Team: June Green reviewed the history of the project beginning in 2005. During the past year and a half, the Reconciling Core Team has been educating the church regarding what it means to be a Reconciling Congregation. Listening sessions, events with two guest preachers, and informal meetings were held with members of the congregation. The Core Team acted as resources, created a library and attended various Sunday School classes. A Frequently Asked Questions webpage was added to the website. At this time, the members of the Reconciling Core Team believe that their work is done and the church is ready to vote. They are requesting that this council take action to determine when/how the vote will take place and consider the new logo for approval. Pastor Grace said the vote has to be at a church conference meeting. The DS holds a special meeting with 2 weeks notice and one agenda item. There was a discussion about the logo. June said that the logo that was chosen was the clear winner in a voluntary survey completed by interested members of the congregation. Pastor Grace suggested that two votes be held, one on whether to become a Reconciling Congregation and one to approve the logo.

June Green moved that the church hold a special conference for the purpose of voting on whether to become a Reconciling Congregation. Sylvia Kupferer seconded. Motion passed.

Safe Sanctuary Policy: Adam Cook reported on changes to the Safe Sanctuaries policy. Adam reviewed the changes. The policy itself comes from the Safe Sanctuaries website. A few changes were made to customize it for us. Betsy Roche pointed out that some of the policies relating to hiring of staff were not the same policies SPRC was following. Dale Zimmerman suggested that we amend the part of the motion covering section 1A and replace the requirement for 3 reference checks with at least 2 reference checks.

A lengthy discussion took place on how the policy applies to groups who rent space in the building versus groups who are invited to the church to participate in activities with our groups. The policy is not intended for adult groups, only groups that involve children and youth. Outside groups that bring youth and children that interface directly with our youth or children will sign a document agreeing to abide by our Safe Sanctuary policy and will be given a copy of the policy. Groups that rent space will be under the purview of the Trustees who will determine the policy for them.

Adam Cook moved that the council approve the Safe Sanctuaries Policy as presented with the exception of the selection policies (Section 1A) which will be amended to require at least 2 reference checks instead of 3 reference checks. Pat Becker seconded. Motion passed.

Trustees: Nate Burke reported that access to the building from the front entrance, including the elevator, will be closed off for asbestos abatement beginning the week of May 2nd. Signage will be placed at the front door

directing people to the rear door. An insert will be included in the bulletin. On April 29th the office staff will relocate to room 308 and the pastors to rooms 304 and 305 and will remain there until the renovation is done.

SPRC: Betsy Roche reported that the committee met with the District Superintendent last week to discuss Pastor Sarah's replacement. An accompanist for the Community Singers has been hired. The OnCenter Leader role has been expanded to include overseeing social media, a service for young adults and additional activities. The title will be changed to Director of Creative Arts and Worship. This is a full-time position. There is enough money in the budget to cover the cost of this position for 2016 but SPRC will request a budget increase of about \$30,000 for 2017 to cover the cost for this expanded role.

Paul Dude commented that Betsy has aptly pointed out that the new position will only cost the church about \$30,000---a half-year's full-time cost---in 2016, because of hiring only at the half-year mark, and that the staffing budget attributable to this position will be about double this amount in 2017 and in following years, by keeping the person on hire. He pointed out that for 2017 raising that additional money ---achieving an excess over the 2016 \$66,000-per-month Operating Fund total spending budget---will be up to the 2016 Stewardship Team headed by Mark Overstreet and Ed Cotner. Mark Overstreet replied, "Consider it done."

Betsy Roche moved that the council approve looking for and hiring a Director of Creative Arts and Worship as soon as possible. Ollie Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

Betsy added that the committee is continuing to work with the Board of Pensions on the pension correction using the process that the GBOP has provided.

Decline of NIC: Al Brunsting reviewed a presentation he made to the Conference Board of Laity on March 2nd. He believes addressing the decline in worship attendance is the most important issue for survival. The presentation included a summary of a correlation between Pew Survey data and Northern Illinois Conference average worship attendance data. Eight action items followed. Al added that he hopes the council will consider presenting the data at a church conference with a motion to recommend the NIC adopt this proposal and the actions recommended.

Building Committee: Dale Zimmerman reported that the permit applications will be submitted tomorrow. On May 9th the Building Committee will review the bids submitted by prospective sub contractors. Rich Fleming asked how we will communicate the milestones to the congregation. Dale said that will be his role. There will be E-blasts, articles in Tidings, and announcements from the pulpit. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony. Mike Wu suggested a blog and putting up pictures on the website weekly. Suzanne will call people who have rented rooms to move them if necessary. She will be aware of the rooms that are available during the different stages of work.

Rich Fleming suggested that May 15th is a potential date for the church conference to vote on becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Pastor Grace added that we can also do the groundbreaking, a potluck and the afternoon concert on that day. Pastor Grace will recommend this to the Worship Committee.

George Groves was elected President of the Northern Illinois Conference of United Methodist Men. He has also completed Men's Ministry Specialist Certification and is one of only 39 people across the country to receive this certification.

Pastor Sarah: The Easter breakfast was an amazing success. It was the third year. Adam did an awesome job of recruiting the youth. A special thank you went to Joyce Brunsting for the great job she did in coordinating it all. Pastor Sarah led us in a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The date for the next meeting has not yet been determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary