

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2016

Members Attending: Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Pastor Sarah Casey, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Ed Cotner, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Janet Eifler, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Richard Kaffka, Susan Keaton, Sylvia Kupferer, Lynn Pries, Betsy Roche, Derrick Swistak, Ollie Taylor, Jennifer Weddle, Michael Wu, Nikki Young, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

Finance: Paul Dude reported that no items from the Finance meeting needed to be brought before the council. The Finance Committee has a website that contains all financial policies including the revised credit card policy. Rich Fleming informed the group that at the last Finance Committee meeting a question was raised regarding the possibility of selling the Lansdale Property and providing a housing allowance in its place. Rich stated that he, Betsy Roche and Nate Burke had been asked by Pastor Grace to do some exploratory investigation on this matter. At the present time discussions were just preliminary. Rich Kaffka remarked that he favored a housing allowance approach and that he hoped a quick decision was reached.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda DeGeer said that revenue for April was 10% under budget. Pledged giving was under and unpledged giving was over budget. The Easter collection was under budget, however, expenses are way under budget. Net income was over \$57K and we have paid our apportionment every month. **Ollie Taylor moved we approve the Treasurer's report. George Groves seconded. Motion passed.** (See report)

Reconciling Core Team: Susan Keaton thanked everyone for voting to become a reconciling congregation. The next step is to send a letter and a \$250 donation to the Reconciling Ministries Network so CUMC will be listed on their website. A banner is being made. The cost to change to the new colored logo will be \$100 per year for ink. It would cost \$3,108 to change the sign on Benton but that doesn't need to be done right away. The Core Team's work is done. The team recommends the council ask for volunteers to serve on a committee to support future activities. There was a discussion about updating the signs on Benton and Center streets. Nate Burke (Trustees Chair) suggested any change to the Benton sign should wait until after the renovation. We may be able to get decals to use in the meantime. Susan Keaton and Joyce Brunsting (Nominations Chair) will work together on identifying volunteers to serve on the future committee. Rich stated that if the Nominations Committee brought forth a request for a committee with a representative on the council, the council would vote on it.

Susan Keaton moved that the Church Council disband the Reconciling Core Team and replace it with a new committee with the name to be determined. Sylvia Kupferer seconded. Motion passed.

Children's Ministry: Director Beth Hagemeyer pointed out a display in the center of the room (A rug with books, legos, stuffed animals, and Play Doh on it called a Prayground). She proposed that a pew on the left front of the sanctuary be removed to create a Prayground where kids (5th graders and below) can worship. Children would still have the option of going to Children's Church. Adam Cook commented that the Methodist church in Downers Grove has a Prayground and it is very successful. Sylvia Kupferer said that the Sanctuary is short on space for people with disabilities and we should do something about that as well. A discussion ensued. It was suggested we try the pray ground and review it after a few months. Beth also reported that the Safe Sanctuaries wording has been updated and posted on the website. (See report.)

Beth Hagemeyer moved that CUMC create a pray ground for children at the front of the Sanctuary beginning on Sunday, July 3rd with the provision that in three months she will report to the Church Council on how it has worked. Betsy Roche seconded. Motion passed.

SPRC: Betsy Roche thanked everyone who attended the reception for Pastor Sarah. Reverend Stephanie Escher will be joining CUMC on July 1. Betsy read the section from the Book of Discipline on Formational and Spiritual Growth leaves for pastors and said that in 30 years of serving in the ministry Pastor Grace has never taken a leave. Superintendent Dick

Wisdom has determined she should take a two month leave. Pastor Grace will take her vacation in August and the leave during September and October. Questions were asked and answered regarding who will help the new Associate Pastor, who will handle the Senior Services and whether there were any budgetary implications. (See report).

Betsy Roche moved that the Church Council approve a two month Formational and Spiritual Growth Leave in September and October for Pastor Grace following her one month vacation in August. George Groves seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Grace: The purpose of her upcoming Liberia trip with June Green and Tyler Ward is to create a relationship with UMC pastors. The cost will be paid by the Reconciling Ministry Network. The team will lead Bible study, teach Wesley Studies and talk on Human Sexuality. Attendees will be given a certificate from CUMC which the council was asked to approve. Approval was granted.

Back Room Inventory: It was agreed that an inventory needs to be done of the back room. A member of the Trustees, Suzanne Wills (Administrative Assistant) and Brenda DeGeer will assist Rich.

Membership: Gary Chipman reported that in March a new system was used to determine active members based on attendance and donations and 613 names were identified. Pastor Sarah thanked Gary for his work. Rich Kaffka said we can do better data analysis if we gather additional information from new and existing members.

Building Committee: Dale Zimmerman reported that the Building Committee is gathering more information on two options before making a recommendation to the congregation. The committee will not have to go back for approval from the city council if they choose either one of the options. Al Brunsting commented that Dale is doing an excellent job and should be the only one who communicates with the architect and general contractor during construction. Sub-contractors will handle some parts of the construction but church members can also help in some areas and will be asked to do so. (See report.)

Round Table:

- Nate reported that the office has a new fully functional phone system that is easy to use.
- Sylvia said the Senior Outreach Ministries has been renamed the Senior Ministries For All Generations and the brochures have been updated and are available. (See report).
- Pat Becker attended a summit on Honduras missions in April. The Mission Committee is putting together a medical mission for 2017 and is looking for medical volunteers. (See report).
- Mike Wu said the Foundation team found that Pastor Grace did not have a laptop computer so they allocated funds for one. (See report).
- Lynn Priess reported the ushers are handing out the Sign In books during services to encourage people to fill them out. Lynn Engels is working on a North Central gathering. There will be a Community in Action week before the first Sunday in September with tables for sign-ups ahead of time.
- Derrick Swistak said the Children's Council is excited about Wonder Works Vacation Bible School.
- Adam Cook said 17 young people will be attending mission trips this summer.
- George Groves said that UMM is supporting Disciple Bible Study in prisons. There is Training for Disciple Bible Study leaders at Gary Wheaton Methodist Church beginning on August 6th.
- Sally Hines reported that the Hunger Commission has donated \$4,000 to projects in Africa three of which are water projects. Since 1989, CUMC has donated over \$150,000 to Heifer International. (See report).
- Pastor Grace reported that 32 people are going on Mission trips. She noted it was Pastor Sarah's last council meeting and said she has been an amazing partner.
- Rich Fleming thanked Pastor Sarah for her time at CUMC saying she brought vitality to the church and the church will miss her.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. (See additional reports from Music, Trustees and the Safe Sanctuary Policy). The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary