

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Fleming, chair; Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Steven DeWaard, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Pastor R. Grace Imathiu, Rich Kafka, Kevin Markwell, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Mark Overstreet, Lynn Pries, Pastor Tom Rawlinson, Betsy Roche, Ollie Taylor, Michael Wu.

**OPENING PRAYER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair Rich Fleming gave the welcome and opening prayer at 7:30. New member Pastor Tom Rawlinson and guest Steve DeWaard were welcomed. The minutes of December 14, 2016, were approved as submitted.

**NOMINATIONS:** Chair Joyce Brunsting informed the council of the new members on Church Council. They had already been welcomed by the Chair. The Nominations report was accepted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Brenda DeGeer submitted detailed reports, which are available online. For 2016 Community United Methodist had a net income of \$82,000.00. The Treasurer explained this windfall by noting that Pastor Sarah was gone for six months, the SPRC was unable to fill all of the positions included in the budget, utilities were 77% of what was budgeted due to the lack of snow and milder temperatures, etc. This put cash reserves at almost three months of operating expenses, which is a goal of the Finance Committee. Pat Becker moved to approve the Treasurer's report; George Groves seconded; the motion carried.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:** Chair Mark Overstreet reported that pledges of \$640,000 have been received; an estimate of \$87,500 was presented for unpledged giving for a total revenue of \$727,500 for 2017. The greatly raised unpledged amount was explained by the Stewardship Committee as those who pledged last year but did not pledge this year were still planning to give generously.

**FINANCE REPORT:** The Finance Committee got input from the pastors, committees, and the Stewardship Committee. Brenda DeGeer analyzed the budget information and there was a shortage of \$74,000 to balance the budget. A small committee from Finance, including Pastor Grace, made cuts (with the consent of various committee chairs), and the budget was balanced. The possibility of the release of money from cash reserve accounts exists, but only if a proposal is deemed worthy/needed and has the approval of Church Council. Many committees gave up dollar amounts to help balance the budget. The balanced budget lacks

vision and is a “dry bones” budget. What ministry are we not doing? Membership was one area that was noted.

**MORE STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE INFORMATION:** There were 138 pledging units. It was noted that the pledge per Average Worship Attendee (AWA) has been going up; more members seem to be approaching tithing. Al Brunsting presented the following information: 2013-\$2251/AWA (292); 2014-\$2400/AWA (272); 2015-\$2563/AWA (254); 2016-\$2638/AWA (237).

George Groves moved to have the **2017 balanced budget approved**; Pat Becker seconded; the motion carried. The question about compensation for the pastors which was brought up at Annual Conference will be discussed in the future.

A motion to have **the Registered Agent of CUMC Naperville, Inc. changed** from Marianna McCauley, our retired Administrative Assistant, to Suzanne Wills, our present Administrative Assistant, carried.

Adam Cook moved to disband the Youth Council and change it to a **Children and Youth Council** under the direction of Children’s Education. The youth are to elect their own representative. (It was noted that a spot on Church Council for a youth is not filled.) Furthermore, a **Youth Booster Club** is to be formed with an adult volunteer to chair this fundraising club. Al Brunsting seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Adam Cook moved to approve the adult **chair of the Youth Booster Club as a member of the Finance Committee**. This would allow a second viewpoint of youth activities, help Adam Cook with tracking the youth budget; especially the outflow of money allocated for trips and other expenses. The youth budget will be tracked by the church budget via reports by the Treasurer. Pastor Grace suggested congregants without youth be invited to be involved in youth ministry/fundraising. It was suggested that filling the new position be a part of the Nominations Committee’s responsibility in coming years. Lynn Pries seconded; the motion carried.

**EDUCATION REPORT:** Beth Hagemeyer is writing the curriculum for **Vacation Bible School**. VBS will be held **July 17-21, beginning at 6:00PM**. The staff of New Beginnings will not be used this year. VBS will end on **July 21 with an event planned for the entire congregation**.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Kevin Markwell, chair of Building Committee reported that if bank loans, permits, and other necessary paperwork are ready, the **General Contractor will start work in mid-March**. Hopefully, all work will be **completed by September**. \$780,000 of the needed \$900,000 has been raised. The Building Committee continues working to raise the

additional \$120,000. The Building Committee is also working at turning the “promises” into pledges. At present the use of the new second floor addition is unallocated.

**ROUNDTABLE: EVANGELISM:** Meeting with the pastors to make plans; **UMM:** Laity Convocation on February 28 at Barrington, IL; **MUSIC:** Faure REQUIEM on Maundy Thursday, April 13; **MISSION:** Jazz Concert for Habitat for Humanity on February 28; **MEMBERSHIP:** Preparing membership report for 2016. Low number of new members. **PASTOR TOM:** THANKS for the many things done to welcome Tom and Mary into their new home and congregation; **PASTOR GRACE:** THANKS for Tom’s presence. On March 5 there will be a Nigerian meal and Pastor M. Barclay will preach; Lynn Pries informed the Church Council that **Nikki Young**, our summer intern and candidate for ministry, will be making one of the prestigious TED X talks at North Central College on March 31.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, April 12, 7:00PM

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Pastor Grace closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Oliver Taylor