

Community United Methodist Church  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
February 7, 2018

**Members attending:** Rich Kafka, Jim McCloud, Sally Hines, Brenda DeGeer, Sharon deWaard, Pastor Tom Rawlinson, Graham Wills, Michael Wu, Sarah Hollander, Nate Burke, Beth Hagemeyer, June Green, Gary Chipman, Nick Nicholas, George Groves, Al Brunsting, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Dale Zimmerman, Bob Kinsman

Chairman Dale Zimmerman Called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. And led the opening prayer.

The Minutes for the December 13, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

**Stewardship:** Graham Wills had no current information on the number of pledges received to date.

**Treasurers Report:** Brenda DeGeer presented the final numbers for the past year 2017. Total expenditures were \$764,221 and total income was \$778,225 for a net balance of \$14,004. Total income was almost exactly on budget. We have to be very happy that we have been very consistent in meeting our revenue budgets. Most expenses were under budget. Repairs and maintenance were under as we waited for the building project to get over before carrying out needed maintenance. Utility expenses exceeded budget as we heated the outside of the building as well as the inside. Salaries and benefits were under budget as we were without a Youth Director for several months. Total expenses came in \$56,000 under budget. Brenda summarized 2017 as a “Good Stable Year.”

In the building fund we have received pledged and unpledged donations of \$2,254,000. Our original 3 year pledges due as of 12/31/2017 totaled \$1,815,000 so we were over by 24%. We have disbursed \$1,530,000 over the five year period which includes the planning phases of the project. Total building cash in our account as of 12/31/2017 was \$726,000.

Further details are available in Brenda's online report.

**Finance Committee/2018 Budget:** Sharon deWaard presented a budget worksheet including actual and budgeted items for 2017 and the proposed 2018 budget. Projected income for 2018 is \$838,400 versus \$778,00 actual cash in for 2017. Projected expenditures for 2018 are \$857,022 for a net loss of \$18,622. Part of the projected increase in income is due to the inclusion of a prior year surplus of \$73,000. Rich Kafka raised an objection to the inclusion of the \$73,000 as income claiming it was poor business practice and that the actual deficit should be \$91,000. George Groves added that part of the surplus is due to the deferment of maintenance items during the construction project. The point was also made that people contributed money to be used to fund church programs: not to create a reserve at the expense of funding those programs.

After discussion the proposed budget was brought up for vote and was approved by the majority with three “no” votes.

**SPRC:** Sally Hines reported that a staff retreat was held and as a result several efforts are in progress including updating of job descriptions and the Church Profile. A new Employee Guide Book is also in the works and should be completed shortly.

**Building Committee:** Al Brunsting reported for Kevin Markwell and cited the reports they are issuing to keep the congregation up to date on building progress. He says that a meeting is held every two weeks with the general contractor and the architect to assess overall progress. They have asked the general contractor to project the finance charges for the next four months as worked is completed. So

far all expenses have been paid with cash on hand. They hope to continue this trend for the balance of the job although some pledgers may be asked to pay early on their 2018 pledge.

**Welcome Center Task Force:** Pastor Grace discussed our current Welcome Center or “Relational Space” as consisting of “donuts in the hallway, signups in the corridor, passing the peace in the aisles, and treats in the Sunday School classrooms.” Strangers have not always felt welcome. In our new Welcome Center a guest will easily find information at a visitor desk/kiosk which will be seen immediately upon entering the space and would be manned on Sundays by friendly angels. Our goal is to use the center to meet and greet people between church and Sunday School. After the early service, don't immediately go to your Sunday School room to visit and share treats with others. Pastor Grace suggests that we should become a “One Coffee Pot Church.”

**Nominations/Addition to SPRC:** Rich Fleming and the Nominations Committee recommends that we add Scott Baker to our SPRC.  
The recommendation was accepted unanimously.

### **Round Table:**

- \* Mike Wu reported that the Foundation Board has a meeting coming up this month.
- \* Nate Burke says that snow removal has been a problem with our many storms plus construction.
- \* June Green mentioned our upcoming Sunday Afternoon group discussing “Courageous Conversations” on February 18.
- \* Gary Chipman announced that five new members have joined the church this past month.
- \* Nick Nicholas announced the Youth Pancake Dinner to be held February 13. A freewill offering will be donated to Habitat for Humanity in memory of Dick Legg.
- \* George Groves invited all clergy and laity to attend this year's Laity Convocation on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Sycamore UMC. The keynote speaker is Dr. Junious Dotson and the goal of the meeting is to “learn strategies for transforming ministry plans into action.”
- \* Pastor Tom announced our many special Lenten services and presented an attractive new brochure listing all of the services. This year's theme is “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: God's Covenant People.” Pastor Tom also gave a special thanks to Sharon deWaard for her excellent work on the finance/budget committee.

Pastor Grace closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Kinsman  
Secretary

See additional reports from the Foundation, Missions, Music Ministry, and Senior Ministry