

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 8, 2013

**Members Attending:** Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Al Brunsting, Nate Burke, Nick Giannasi, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Dave Hollander, Sally Hines, Mary Jacobs, Grace Imathiu, Rich Kaffka, Sylvia Kupferer, Jim McCloud, Elmer Schirmer, Graham Wills, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and opened with a prayer.

Minutes of the March meeting were corrected and entered into the record.

**Staff Parish:** Graham Wills reported that the new Associate Pastor will arrive July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Committee is working on an event to say farewell to Pastor Melissa and a special welcome for the new Associate Pastor. Maria Wilcox is leaving for a new position at Faith United Methodist Church in Downers Grove as Director of Christian Education.

**Finance:** Rich Kaffka announced that the apportionment for 2013 has been decreased. Al Brunsting has figured out the projection formula for the apportionment which will be extremely helpful in planning the budget in the future. The financial situation is much improved but we are not yet out of the woods. Rich believes the future is bright and we will be stronger. (See report.)

**Al Brunsting:** Al explained the apportionment formula. He walked the council through the calculation process. He made several important points. Every year, the church Treasurer sends a five page detailed report to the conference covering spending, salary and benefits, and other information. Additional money given to missions and second mile giving does not increase our apportionment. Average Worship Attendance does correlate with the apportionment; as worship attendance goes down the apportionment goes up. Pastor Grace said the correlation is an unintended consequence rather than something the Conference intends. Currently, all attendance including the extra services (e.g. the senior reminiscence service) is included in our numbers and that may not be the way all churches are doing it. Rich suggested it should be standardized so everyone is doing the same thing. The bulletin numbers do not include the attendance at these extra services.

The Council spent some time reviewing and discussing the report and graphs. Al suggested that the trends are the most important thing we should take away from the graphs. We should probably look at these graphs once a quarter. Sylvia asked if the money to be spent for the hearing loop will increase the apportionment. Al said he didn't think so but he would have to check to be sure. (See report attached.)

**CUMC Goals/Objectives:** Bill Abernethy said that rather than use the term "strategic planning" the focus will instead be on updating the goals with a timeline. The emphasis will be on action as opposed to planning. He reviewed the CUMC 2013-2014 Goals and Objectives "To Do" List. We have made great strides on reversing our physical and financial downward trend and have very positive numbers to show for it. We have also made great progress on apportionments and paid 91% in 2012. Average weekly attendance is on the increase. We do not know the average age of our membership but Rich said we could get that information.

Dave Hollander asked if there were guidelines for reducing the rolls and whether it is a process that could be accelerated. Pastor Grace would like to write a pastoral letter to people who do not appear to be active in the areas of the four promises. If people haven't been here they could continue their affiliation as an "associate" member. She believes the number of members we quote affects how we see ourselves which can affect important decisions.

Bill asked whether the Stewardship has goals regarding tithing. Al reported that they haven't considered that but would if so directed. Bill suggested that the economy is better and Sylvia commented that the openness about the financial situation has made people feel more comfortable. The time might be right for an emphasis on tithing.

Bill asked that members of the council give any comments regarding the Goals and Objectives to him so that the list can be updated.

**Nominations:** Nate Burke said that the position of Membership Secretary is required by The Book of Discipline. He read the job description. Marianna McCauley has been filling the job. With her upcoming retirement she has begun training Gary Chipman to take over the responsibilities.

**Christian Education:** Beth Hagemeyer reported that Carl Gilmore is in charge of Vacation Bible School and volunteers are needed. The Christian Ed team is considering some summer adult Sunday School classes. The team is still finding their way since the function has only recently been taken over by volunteers.

**United Methodist Men:** George Groves reported that there will be a golf tune-up at Reidy's and a baseball game is also being planned.

**Trustees:** Jim McCloud reported that a mowing service has been hired for 707 Sara Lane at a cost of \$28 per week. In addition he has negotiated an 8% reduction in the costs for Buck services for next year. (See Report.)

**Pastor Grace:** We are going to hold services in the park for the last three Sundays in July. The first Sunday we will be in the Sanctuary because we will be welcoming our new Associate Pastor. She asked that people wear red on Sunday, May 19 which is Pentecost as well as the beginning of "Change the World" week. The farewell for District Superintendent Diana Facemeyer will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at First United Methodist Church in Downers Grove from 3 – 5 p.m. We are coming up on Pastor Grace's first anniversary. She said one of the highlights of her time at CUMC has been the Bible study Disciple class and encouraged everyone to join a Bible study group.

Pastor Grace led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next meeting will be on July 10, 2013.

(See additional reports from on Attendance, the Building Committee, the Hunger Commission, Honduras Mission Trip the Senior Outreach Committee.)

Sally Hines  
Secretary