

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2013

Members Attending: Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Al Brunsting, Nate Burke, Brenda DeGeer, Steven Edwards, Nick Giannasi, George Groves, Dave Harr, David Hollander, Sally Hines, Melissa Hood, Grace Imathiu, Mary Jacobs, Rich Kaffka, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Forrest Rice, Elmer Schirmer, Ollie Taylor, Maria Wilcox, Dale Zimmerman **Guests:** Rod Jacobs, Jeannine Schmidt

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. opened the meeting by reading a piece about faith.

Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and entered into the record.

Bill Abernethy reviewed the process for submitting reports ahead of time so they can be published on the web enabling council members to read them before the meeting. He also referred council members to the main tasks of the Church Council as they are spelled out in the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

Finance: Rich Kaffka reviewed the Finance Committee's goals for 2013 which include 1) Balancing the budget with payment of the apportionment in full 2) Repayment and distribution of designated funds 3) Divesting Community Church from the Bridge fund 4) Remaining current on all accounts payable 5) Implementing the audit recommendations 6) maintaining/increasing a positive cash flow 7) Balancing the budget for 2014 with payment of the apportionment in full and 8) Increasing accountability, transparency and communication.

There has been a remarkable change for the positive in the church's financial picture based on December giving which amounted to over \$101,000. The congregation deserves an enormous thank you. The church ended the year in a much better cash position than was expected based on earlier projections. Over \$105,166 was paid toward our 2012 apportionment and much of the money taken out of designated funds was repaid.

The Finance Committee has approved a balanced budget for 2013 of \$759,587 in expenses based on projected income of \$760,000. The committee received input from staff and church leaders and believes this is a realistic budget. Brenda DeGeer, Treasurer, said that the hard part will be to stay within budget on expenses. One major unexpected expense could throw everything off. The council reviewed the budget and Dave Harr suggested that putting the Easter and Christmas offerings toward operating expenses is a big change for the church as that has traditionally gone for outreach. Rich said that is only planned for 2013 because the need is so great. Dave suggested that if the financial situation improves we should put some of the Christmas and Easter giving toward Outreach. Bill suggested this should be referred to the Mission and Finance Committees. (See Report)

Rich Kaffka moved the Council accept the budget for 2013 as presented. The vote passed with one no vote.

Mission: Dave Harr reported on the upcoming Second Mile Pledge Campaign. The Mission Committee is focused on supporting our mission work in Honduras, providing opportunities for members to support a wide variety of mission projects and participate in hands on mission work opportunities at home and abroad, supporting youth mission trips, strengthening collaboration on mission with other churches and North Central College and developing more unity of action. The team is working closely with the Stewardship committee. The first Second Mile presentation will take place on January 13 with three more presentations during worship on following weeks, along with presentations to Sunday School classes, E Blasts, and articles in Tidings. Pastor Melissa said the campaign theme is "Matters of the Heart," and focuses on giving as a spiritual discipline. There was discussion about whether the possibility of a future building campaign was considered as we planned the Second Mile campaign and whether we might become a "Rainbow Covenant" church again. Dave believes the building campaign is a separate entity and should not affect the Second Mile campaign. Achieving "Rainbow Covenant" status again may be possible in the future.

Staff Parish Jeannine Schmidt represented the committee for Graham Wills who is out of town. The first meeting for 2013 will be held on January 23rd. Jeannine read a letter from Graham stating that the committee will be spending the next few months looking at the work of the church as a whole and how we ensure the work is done effectively and efficiently. SPRC will be working on the twin goals of ensuring we support and care for all our staff, as well as ensuring we have the right match of people and responsibilities for the coming years. The Finance Committee has asked the SPRC to reduce their budget for 2013. SPRC is concerned that when plans are made they be made for the long term, as staffing decisions made now will have their effect five or more years into the future. They will thoroughly review all areas of staffing for the purpose mandated in the Book of Discipline and have committed to reducing the budget. A complete plan will be communicated to the church council by the middle of the year. They also strongly expect to take some steps in the first quarter to reduce expenditures. (See Report)

Trustees: Jim McCloud said the trustees have been looking into the insurance policies and have concluded that we are underinsured. A recommendation will be made in the next week to change the coverage. The change may not involve higher costs but will result in better coverage in the right areas. The committee is also looking at savings on one of the current contracts they oversee.

Nominations: Nate Burke reported that there were two committee additions that were not brought up at the Church Conference Meeting. Barb Dabrowski is going on the Finance committee for a one year term and Sylvia Kupferer is the Chair Person for the Senior Adult Worship team.

Foundation: George Groves reported that people who took a distribution from their IRA in December of 2012 are allowed to transfer up to \$100,000 to a charity tax free if the contribution is made by January 31, 2013. Information on this will be put in the bulletin and Tidings. George also recommended members of the council attend a Laity Convocation in Sycamore on Feb. 2nd.

175th Anniversary Committee: Ollie Taylor reported that the committee spent only \$529.20 from their allocation of \$2,650 on anniversary activities and returned \$2,120.80 to the church. Everyone agreed that the committee had done a remarkable job.

Stewardship: Al Brunsting reported that as of today there have been 165 pledges received for a total of \$625,257. (See Report)

Pastor Grace: Pastor Grace reported that Dr. Warren Ebinger, a former Community pastor, passed away and the funeral will be Sunday in Maryland.

On January 17th there will be a Survivor and Caregiver of Stroke Retreat held at the church and cosponsored by Bright Star, Garrett Theological Seminary and the Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center. Help is needed between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. greeting and assisting guests.

Pastor Grace is excited about worship and the fact that there is a baptism scheduled every month for the next few months. She would like to see a celebration held for the congregation - something to make everyone feel good about how well we are doing. Pastor Grace and Pastor Melissa will work together on this project.

Stephen Edwards led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.
(See additional reports from the Building Committee, Honduras Mission Trip, Hunger Commission, Evangelism, Christian Education and New Members.)

The next council meeting is March 13, 2013.

Sally Hines
Secretary