

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2014

Members Attending: Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Al Brunsting, Nate Burke, Brenda DeGeer, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Rev. Grace Imathiu, Mary Jacobs, Lynda Krazinski, Rev. Sarah Meacham, Jim McCloud, Elmer Schirmer, Roger Shuma, Ollie Taylor, Joan Uebele, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and read an opening meditation.

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

Chair Bill Abernethy welcomed Roger Shuma, Member at Large. Lynda Krazinski attended in place of Sylvia Kupferer.

Finance: Brenda DeGeer reported that we ended 2013 with an increase in net assets of almost \$42,000 without having a “top off” campaign. We still need to gain momentum and keep going but the trend is very positive. The committee has put the information in a Tidings article and included two pages in the bulletin in order to maintain transparency. January revenues were under plan because of lower pledged giving and increased utility and snow removal costs. The plan is to pay one half of each monthly apportionment payment and then catch up at the end. An audit is being done pro bono and the Finance Committee is negotiating contracts to reduce costs. (See report.)

Trustees: Nate Burke reported that the state has approved Conceal/Carry stickers to be posted in places where guns are prohibited like the church building. The stickers are available at a nominal cost. There is an amendment in the works that would eliminate the need for them but until it is passed by the legislature it would be smart to post the signs. The Church Council is supportive of posting the stickers. This information will be communicated to the congregation through Tidings and the bulletin and the signs will be posted.

Stewardship: Al Brunsting reported that the results of the on-line survey are in and have been reviewed. Bill Abernethy asked if the response was higher or lower than expected and Al replied that 29 people responded which was higher than expected. This completes item #5 on the “To Do” list that was the responsibility of the Stewardship Committee. Al said that this is his last year as Stewardship Chair and Bill commended him on a job well done. (See report.)

Parish Nurses: Joan Uebele reported that the Emergency Protocol approved by the Council in November is now ready to post. There is a list of people certified to do CPR posted on the inside of the cabinet door in the Sanctuary. Pastor Sarah suggested that the protocols and list of members certified in CPR should also be posted on the 2nd and 3rd floors near the Sunday School rooms. The council agreed. Pastor Grace mentioned that someone indicated the handicapped ramp is difficult to access for a person in a wheelchair and that became apparent the previous Sunday when the building was evacuated because the fire alarm was pulled. Bill Abernethy asked Dale Zimmerman to talk to the architect about adding an easily accessible ramp to the plans when we get ready to move ahead with renovating the building. Elmer Schirmer mentioned that the Fire Department took longer to get there than was expected. The alarm was pulled by a young child. Beth Hagemeyer suggested that we should install covered alarms near the rooms occupied by young children. Pastor Grace will work with Jim McCloud on this project.

CUMC To Do List 2013-2014: Bill Abernethy reported that there are only six items left to finalize and they would be discussed in order. (#3,5,7 and 8 will be discussed at this meeting. #4 and #9 will be discussed at a later meeting.)

#3 Achieve sustainable average weekly attendance of 350, 375 or 400. There was a steady increase in 2012 and 2013 but the early months of 2014 were down due to the inclement weather. Mary Jacobs suggested the goal needs to be changed. Bill Abernethy mentioned that the To Do List will be replaced by a new system. He and Pastor Grace and Pastor Sarah are working on a new approach. Mary reported that we are taking in more new members than we have in the past year or two and that we should take a look at the numbers in July.

#5 Establish tithing as the norm rather than the exception. Al Brunsting reported that the survey results indicate this goal has been accomplished.

#7 Hold 3-4 social events each year designed to attract a full range of participants. Pastor Sarah reported that there have been extensive conversations about the purpose of events and that it is more important to do things that are meaningful than to focus on the number of events. There is a brunch planned for Easter Sunday. While Pastor Sarah's name is on this item it doesn't fit with her current job description.

#8 Foster stability and continued growth in healthy and/or promising small groups. Pastor Sarah handed out a list of small groups that was put together by Nick Giannassi. She asked council members to send any additions or corrections to the list to Nick. The council secretary will forward the names of additional groups to Nick.

Trustees: George Groves reported that there was a discrepancy in the dollar amount reported to be available from the foundation to go toward the LED sign the Trustees are pursuing but the discrepancy has been resolved. There is \$6,200 set aside toward the sign. Pastor Grace commended the trustees for pairing with the Staff Parish Committee and conducting a walk-through of both parsonages to determine any work that needed to be done.

Pastor Reports: Pastor Sarah raised several questions she believes we should be asking when it comes to program development. What would it look like if we, as a group, asked where God is calling us in terms of programs instead of just continuing the same programs? She questions how we are fulfilling the needs of the people on the periphery. What if those people don't fit into our models? What is the depth of our discipleship and the quality of our programs? These are some of the things we should be considering.

Pastor Grace wanted to celebrate the hearing loop. Lynda Krazinski reported that all 5 headphones are in place and the team is working with the people with T coils in their hearing aids to find the best places to sit in the sanctuary. The ushers and Dean Craig have been extremely helpful with the process. In addition,

- The confirmation class is going very well. The young people are being trained as liturgists. Confirmation will be moved to the fall instead of at the end of the school year so it will not seem like a graduation and an ending. There were 16 people in attendance at the 7:00 – 7:30 am Lenten service today.
- Stephen Edwards, the Music Director and Lorna Jansen, the organist, have resigned. Sometimes it feels like the goal posts just keep moving.
- We, as a congregation, need to work on how we continue to care and love one another as Christians. We need to figure out what is important and to do the things that are important rather than just doing the urgent things.
- Pastor Grace said that John Schmidt had a serious heart attack recently and we need to keep him and Jeannine in our prayers.

Mary Jacobs led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Sally Hines
Secretary

See additional reports on Attendance and Missions.