

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2014

Members Attending: Bill Abernethy, Nancy Abernethy, Al Brunsting, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Brenda DeGeer, Chris Garofolo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Grace Imathiu, Rich Kaffka, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Sarah Meacham, Jim McCloud, Lauren Rheingans, Betsy Roche, Ollie Taylor
Guest: Rich Fleming

Chair Bill Abernethy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and read a meditation on praying for others.

Minutes of the July meeting were entered into the record.

Annual Stewardship/Building Fund Campaign: Rich Fleming and Nathan Overstreet are co-chairs with 6 leadership teams headed by co-leaders. John Clark and Donna Lund from the James Company are assisting. There will be one campaign with two purposes. Rich stated that the theme is “Building to Serve.” The Kick-off weekend is Oct. 4 & 5. A full calendar of events has been established from now through Jan. 10 & 11 when a celebration weekend with an announcement of the results will take place. The commitment weekend will take place on Nov. 15 & 16. If asked whether to give first to the building campaign or to the church’s stewardship campaign Rich said the answer would be to the church. Ollie Taylor said the Building Committee is talking to the architect about how to do the building in phases if we do not end up with the full \$3.5 M that is the goal, but the committee is thinking positively.

Staff Parish: Betsy Roche reported that the Finance Committee suggested that the word “interim” be removed from the bulletin as part of the titles of the three new staff members and that has been done. The titles on the web-site will still be listed as interim. There was a discussion about the use of the word “interim” and whether it means probationary. Betsy explained that the decision was made to take a year of discernment to determine the best way to reorganize the staff and interim means “in the meantime.” This was explained to the staff members before they accepted the positions. Pastor Sarah said it was known that the structure wasn’t right. A comment was made that the church had continued to run as if we were much larger than we actually were. Betsy said the goal is to have all positions filled permanently by or before July 1 and there would be no interim titles then. SPRC is looking for a Choral Director rather than a Choir Director because the position would work with On Center music also. The posts for that position and the Youth Director position are posted on the Conference and UMC Board websites.

Finance: Rich Kaffka said the august report in Tidings was very complete. The church is strong and getting stronger. Brenda DeGeer said that getting out the June 30th numbers helped trigger some large contributions in August that would usually come in December. Rich said that the goal is to get the budget approved earlier this year. (See reports for Finance and a Summary of the Internal Audit.)

Stewardship: Al Brunsting reported on the Stewardship seminar from the Northern Illinois Conference and a summary of the Stewardship campaigns. There has been a huge major turnaround over the last four years. Eighty two percent of the 2014 revenue came from pledges. One of the main points made at the Stewardship seminar was that there is lots of competition for charitable giving. The clergy is working closely with the Stewardship team. (See report.)

Christian Education: Beth Hagemeyer reported there are 12 kids in the nursery, 31 kids in pre K through 5th grade and 23 kids in 6 – 12th grade classes.

Senior Outreach: Sylvia Kupferer said the group is considering changing the name from Senior Outreach to encourage younger people to become involved. The quilt show will take place in 2 weeks. It was discovered that the hearing loop will work in Fellowship Hall but they need to run some wires to make it operational. The cost is \$1,200 and the committee has the money so they are going ahead with the installation. (See report.)

Youth Ministry: Nate Burke reported that the plea for drivers for youth outings was important because there must be a background check on everyone who drives. The goal is to put together a list of drivers they can call when needed. They received enough signups to provide transportation for 52.

Trustees: A building permit has been issued for the sign on Benton and Center. Jim McCloud expects the sign to be up in early November. The sign is approximately 5 x 6 feet and cost \$17,000. Gary Chipman suggested the sign could be used to promote events for the community, i.e. North Central College. (See report.)

United Methodist Men: George Groves said that the United Methodist Men's group will be back meeting in October.

Pastor Sarah: Pastor Sarah joked that both she and the church survived Pastor Grace's vacation. There are over 21 new Sunday School teachers and over 30 teachers and assistants involved in Christian Education. There are 5 confirmands on Sunday. She asked that the council send cards to them. On Saturday Sept. 20th there will be a Northern Illinois Conference service called "Acts of Repentance" on the role Methodists played in the eradication of Native Americans.

Pastor Grace: Pastor Grace thanked everyone for a great vacation month. She also thanked the church for the warm welcome for Bishop and Mrs. Imathiu over Labor Day weekend. We are holding communion three Sundays in a row because it was important to her to have communion with her parents; we wanted communion as part of confirmation Sunday; and we always have first Sunday communion. Pastor Grace is excited about the college students and a goal of 50 college students in attendance on Sundays has been set. Lauren will be attending the North Central campus ministry breakfast. Two of our North Central ministerial candidates are teaching confirmation. On September 21st new North Central Chaplain Eric Doolittle is preaching. Dave Hollander is preaching on September 28th because it is United Methodist Men's Sunday. The loose coin offering for Imagine No Malaria starts this Sunday. The Church Conference will be held on October 13. A survey will be given out on reconciling ministries

Pastor Grace led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 12, 2014.

(See additional reports from the Foundation and Missions Committees.)

Sally Hines
Secretary