

Community United Methodist Church  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
February 25, 2015

**Members Attending:** Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Pat Becker, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Dave Hollander, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Sylvia Kupferer, Mary Markwell, Jim McCloud, Pastor Sarah Meacham, Mark Overstreet, Lynn Pries, Betsy Roche, Elmer Schirmer, Roger Shuma, Dale Zimmerman Visitor: Tom Kupferer

Minutes of the January meeting were approved entered into the record.

**Finance:** Treasurer Brenda DeGeer reported that the annual statements are presented on a modified cash basis. Income for 2013 and 2014 is consistent. The church finances are getting healthier and healthier but we need to continue to be prudent through 2015. Salaries and benefits will be higher because we had open positions for much of 2014 that are now filled for 2015.

**Finance Chair Paul Dude recommended approval of the Finance reports. Dave Hollander seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Brenda also reported that there were a high number of pre-paid pledges and that January has become a high paying month. We are maintaining a good cash balance. The James Company has been paid in full. Al Brunsting commented that we are paying the apportionment at 1/12 of the total owed across 12 months. Brenda said that would continue as long as operations expenses allow it. Paul Dude said that in 2015 we will begin recognizing the Building Fund as equity. (See report.)

**Nominations:** Joyce Brunsting nominated two members for new positions.

**Motion: Joyce moved that Zack Zigterman (Trustees) and Allyson Buckland (SPRC) be approved for positions starting in 2015. Sylvia Kupferer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Staff Parish:** Betsy Roche thanked Graham Wills for initiating work on an Employee Handbook which current staff employees have been given. SPRC decided there needed to be some changes and presented them to the council for approval. In addition, the name of the document is being changed to an Employee Guidebook. Betsy reviewed the changes in detail. There was general discussion about any future changes (need to be brought to the council), the need to keep track of revisions, some wording changes on the issue resolution section and changing the smoking policy to a practice allowing smoking in some areas out of doors. The issue of the reduction in holidays was discussed. The reduction is because the original list included holidays when the church meets (Christmas Eve, Easter, and sometimes Christmas). (See report.)

**Motion: Betsy moved that the Council approve the Guidebook with the revisions that were discussed. George Groves seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Building Committee:** Dale Zimmerman reported that with the \$ 1.8 M pledged we can cover all the first floor renovations plus the Welcome Center and the new offices. It would also be to our advantage to construct the shell for the second floor because we would not need to go back for a second approval. It would cost just under \$2 M to do the first floor plus the exterior of the second floor. Completing the second floor exterior will save money in the long run because we will not have to tear off and reroof that section or relocate the heating equipment. Jim McCloud commented that we have to get a variance for construction which will only be good for 2 years and it is possible that if we don't start the second floor within 2 years a second variance would not be approved. There was a discussion about where the additional \$200 K would come from. There are several possibilities. Pastor Grace reminded everyone that this is a \$3.5 M program and that we are only beginning the first phase. There is a need for communication about exactly what will be done and why. Rich Fleming and Mark Overstreet will attend the next Building Committee meeting to talk further about this. There was discussion about the possibility of a mortgage to cover the \$200K. A mortgage would need approval by the congregation at a special charge conference.

**Ad Hoc Parking Committee:** Sylvia Kupferer made a recommendation that the Council create an ad hoc parking committee to coordinate with the other churches, look at the parking issues, and come up with innovative solutions. There was further discussion about the members of the committee (long-time and newer as well as a disabled member). There was agreement that this is a good idea and plans to form the ad hoc committee will move ahead. Pastor Grace and Joyce Brunsting will form the committee.

Rich Fleming told the Council he is looking into a loan that was made from the Trustees account for a feasibility study that was done by the Aspen Group in 2006 and that has not yet been repaid. The plan was to reimburse the \$29,600 loan from money raised for the building program. Rich is going to look into this further and will bring it up again at the May Council meeting.

Rich invited the council to participate in a quick roundtable of short reports to ensure those who wanted to speak had the opportunity. The roundtable yielded the following information: The men's group is meeting on the third Saturday of every month. The Senior Outreach group will be forming a partnership with Community Players to raise money for senior transportation to the senior outreach programs. Over 100 people from CUMC attended the Feed My Starving Children food packing gathering at North Central College. The youth program is moving ahead and kids are starting to invite friends. The Education team has revised the Fire/Tornado procedures and they have been approved. There will be a fire drill in the spring. Gary Chipman is gathering data for the annual statistical report.

**Pastor Sarah:** Pastor Sarah has been approved for ordination and will be ordained this spring. She thanked everyone for their support during the process. Her father, Rev. Tim Casey, will be preaching at CUMC Saturday and Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pastor Grace:** The confirmation class took a trip to the Mosque in Naperville and are going to a Synagogue on March 13. She also thanked Lynn Pries for the work he did with the three students who are being sponsored by CUMC. Pastor Grace led us in the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

(See additional reports for Missions, Music and Senior Outreach).

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary