

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2015

Members Attending: Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Dave Hollander, Sylvia Kupferer, Jim McCloud, Lynn Pries, Forrest Rice, Betsy Roche, Elmer Schirmer, Ollie Taylor, Jennifer Weddle, Dale Zimmerman Visitor: Bob Schroeder

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the opening prayer. Rich read the names of six members who passed away recently and there was a moment of silence to honor them.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as corrected and entered into the record.

Economic Justice: Bob Schroeder represented the Economic Justice committee and reviewed its history. He distributed a summary of the action the committee is recommending urging the Northern Illinois Conference to endorse the "Pathways to Economic Justice" resolution. The conference would then refer the resolution to the General Board of Church and Society for endorsement and submission to the 2016 General Conference. If approved by the council, delegates would be charged to promote the resolution at the General Conference, act as advocates and get it passed. The goal is to get the conference to make this resolution a priority. General discussion followed.

Motion: Adam Cook moved that we support the submission of this resolution to the Northern Illinois Conference. Betsy Roche seconded. The motion passed.

Finance: Treasurer Brenda DeGeer reported that we are current with our monthly apportionment payments and still have a healthy excess of revenues versus expenses. We have accrued dollars equal to two months of expenses. The goal is to have enough in reserve to cover three months of expenses. (See report.)

Staff Parish: Betsy Roche reported that current employees were enrolled in the 403 (b) pension plan. The committee is working with the pension board to resolve a problem related to an IRS regulation that the committee was unaware of that is now in the process of being handled.

Building Committee: Dale Zimmerman reported we have received comments back from the city regarding our building plan. An issue was raised about parking but Dale does not believe the issue will cause a problem. Kathy West, an attorney, has been hired to represent us before the city. Things are moving along smoothly. There are interviews scheduled with three general contractors. Al Brunsting will be our Project Manager. There have been discussions with two banks regarding construction loans, Lisle Savings Bank and Naperville Bank and Trust. Naperville has an interesting proposal. Money we receive would be deposited in Naperville Bank and we would pay interest only when there were insufficient funds to cover expenses. Chicago Title & Trust would disperse funds after contractors met requirements. We have not yet received the formal proposal in writing. Rich Fleming asked if this was a two phase project. Dale responded we are now working on Phase one which should take approximately three years. Another capital campaign would be held to cover Phase two which would also probably be over three years.

Finance: Rich raised the topic of the inter-church loan that took place when money was borrowed from the Trustees to pay for a study on the building project. Al Brunsting, Brenda DeGeer and Rich looked into whether the accounts were healthy enough to transfer \$29,600 to the Trustees without impacting our line of credit. Paul Dude reported that the Finance Committee met on May 6, 2015 and voted to establish a Trustee fund with its own accounts including cash and equity distinct from the Operating Fund and the Building Fund which are currently CUMC's only existing funds. The committee recommended to the Council that the \$29,600 cash be transferred from the church's Operating Fund to the church's Trustee Fund to satisfy and retire the inter-fund loan that exists. The committee requested that the \$29,500 plus an earlier \$5,000 trustee reserve amount remain available to the church for property-related matters without going through the foundation. The request would hold for the duration of any line of credit extended to the church by a lender so that the consolidated balance sheet would show the church's strong financial condition. If the money is

shown under the foundation (where it earns a higher interest rate) it is not included in the balance sheet and not visible to a lender. A general discussion ensued and the pros and cons were raised. Jim McCloud said that while the Trustees wanted to put the money back under the foundation they were told it would upset the loan process. George Groves talked about how much money would be lost in interest. After discussion Paul Dude said we need to see what's in the loan documents. He would support keeping it in the Trustee Fund until we decide it's safe to move. Rich stated that he hopes we will have an answer in July regarding the length of time the money will need to remain in the Trustee fund and he will put that as an agenda item for the Council's July meeting.

Motion: Dave Hollander moved we create a Trustee Fund and transfer \$29,600 from the Operating Fund to the Trustee Fund to satisfy and retire the inter-fund loan. Lynn Priess seconded. The motion passed.

Round Table:

- Elmer Schirmer thanked the council on behalf of Ed Cotner and himself for authorizing the repayment of the Trustee loan and suggested we remember this when we get to the second phase of construction. If a loan is required we should get it from a bank instead of doing an inter-fund loan.
- Al Brunsting recommended the church maintain archives on hard drives that are searchable and easy to use of any discussions on capital campaigns and building projects.
- Lynn Priess reported that Evangelism has restarted the red bag program.
- Sylvia Kupferer reported she has met with Pastor Grace about growing the Senior Outreach program.
- Adam Cook announced that the youth program is bringing in new members. Three young people have joined and two families are thinking about it.
- Beth Hagemeyer gave dates for a fire drill and the end and fall start up for Sunday School. Vacation Bible School is on July 20 – 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. We are not partnering with Wesley or UCC this year. Help is needed.
- Jim McCloud said we will save money on our Buck Service contract when the door lock mechanism is working. He is looking into an alarm system for one of the parsonages and has asked a former trustee to write St. Peter and Paul about not parking in our lot during the building project.
- Forrest Rice announced after 30 years as Librarian he will be retiring by the end of the year. The library is in a critical situation because not enough people are using it. The Conference newspaper had several important items in it of interest to our church but no one at the church was alerted to them. Adam will talk about this at the staff meeting. Committee heads should receive copies.
- Rich Fleming praised Forrest for the fine job he has done as librarian and the council applauded.
- Gary Chipman is working with Suzanne Wills to produce a membership list of actives only. Rich asked that he bring it to the Council when it is done.
- Al Brunsting said there was a newspaper article yesterday on the reduction in members of mainline protestant denominations and we need to be aware of these trends.
- Chris Garofalo said he is amazed at the dedication of the volunteer members of the music groups.
- Jennifer Weddle reported that the UMW thank offering raised \$1,500. A Women's Night Bingo Fundraiser is in the works.
- Sally Hines mentioned that the Hunger Commission donated \$4,200 to several worthy projects.
- Betsy said there will be a celebration for Pastor Sarah's ordination that will also recognize our 3 seminary candidates on Sunday, June 21. Everyone is encouraged to attend Pastor Sarah's ordination.

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary