

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2015

Members Attending: Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Gary Chipman, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Jim McCloud, Lynn Pries, Forrest Rice, Betsy Roche, Elmer Schirmer, Jennifer Weddle, Pastor Sarah Meacham, Ollie Taylor, Dale Zimmerman

Chair Rich Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as written and entered into the record.

Finance: Brenda DeGeer reported that while last month the report was glowing this month is a little different. We missed hitting the numbers in August and September. We will be okay because we budget conservatively. This is the first time this year we have been under budget. November and Christmas may enable us to catch up. We have accumulated one month of expenses in savings. We would like to have three months of expenses in savings. Unpledged giving has come in at \$34,000 versus the \$49,000 that was projected. (See report.)

Paul Dude reported that Finance is tasked with budgeting revenue. Al Brunsting said that the Stewardship campaign this year is similar to campaigns of the last three years and as pledges come in a trend occurs. He should be able to make a prediction 1 – 2 weeks after we start receiving the pledge cards. Paul said that the budget process was handled differently this time. A task force consisting of Brenda DeGeer, Betsy Roche, Pastor Sarah and Nate Burke took the submissions from the various committees and compiled a report for the Finance Committee. This report shows an increase of about 10% which is equivalent to about one month's expenses. The report was distributed to the Council and Paul reviewed the details. Betsy Roche said that SPRC is looking at additional roles (On Center Worship leader and Spiritual Formation leader) that would help the church. Ollie Taylor commented that it is misleading that materials have stated that the staff is not getting any increases but because of the projection for the 2 open positions staff salaries are up 23% on the report. Forrest agreed and Sally Hines commented that she was surprised that there were no increases for staff. Rich Fleming pointed out this was just a first report and there is a likelihood some of this will change. The Finance Committee will come up with the final budget on Nov. 23rd which will be brought to the Church Council at a special meeting on November 30th. Paul thanked the task force for their work.

On a separate item, Paul noted that the Discipline requires that any changes in the budget have to be approved by the Council. There are two areas where expenses need to be approved. Adam was not aware that a reimbursement was required when he created his budget. Chris found that the organ, which was purchased in 1952, needed repair work.

Paul Dude moved that we approve spending \$1,580 on youth ministry expenses to cover reimbursement for a deposit on the youth trip. Jennifer Weddle seconded. Motion passed.

Paul Dude moved that we approve \$6,000 for organ repairs. Forrest Rice seconded. Motion passed.

There was a discussion about planning for future repairs because of the age of the organ.

Building Committee: Dale Zimmerman reported that we are in the pre-construction process/design development phase which is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. After the drawings are complete they will be submitted to the city for a building permit and bids will be solicited for the work. Work is tentatively expected to begin in the spring of 2016.

CUMC Foundation: George Groves reported that even though the market has been fairly bad the foundation was able to distribute \$13,000 to CUMC in the first quarter of 2016 including \$10,000 from the general endowment (the council will determine the distribution), \$2,400 from the Music Endowment to the CUMC music program, and \$600 from the Building Endowment for the Trustees. Since the foundation was established in 2000, \$107,900 has been given to the church and with the latest distribution the total comes to \$120,900. A large IRA received by the church this year was determined to be designated for the building and half was put in the Capital Improvement Fund and half in the endowed building fund. (See report.)

Nominations: Joyce Brunsting reviewed the report from the Nominations Committee (Pastor Grace, Ollie Taylor and Joyce Brunsting). The nominations will be presented at the Church Conference on December 2nd for approval.

Al Brunsting proposed that the church needs a searchable archival/retrieval information system. He pointed out that an appraisal was done on the building 8 years ago and it cannot be located. It would be helpful as we move ahead with another appraisal. We need this system so we can take advantage of our history. The documents could be put on a hard drive by the administrative assistant. Each committee chair should provide the appropriate documents to Suzanne. Rich asked Al to make Suzanne aware that this would be taking place.

Chair Rich Fleming reported on the recent Northern Illinois Conference session. The central issue of this special session was consideration of the 2016 budget. The budget was accepted but includes significant reductions from earlier budgets. We have gone from a \$7 million dollar conference to a \$6 million dollar conference. Giving units have declined from 36,000 to 32,000 over the last seven years. Building maintenance costs have risen 30% in the past ten years. Morale among the NI clergy is an area of concern. There will be discussion with Superintendent Dick Wisdom when he comes for the church conference. Pastor Grace commented that while it is very sad it is good to “look the devil in the eye.” All the conferences are suffering. We are better off than many. Comments were made that we need to ask what lessons we can learn from churches that are thriving.

Round Table:

- Betsy Roche said it is exciting to hear where we're going with our budgets and the comments that affirmed our clergy.
- George Groves said the United Methodist Men's breakfast will be held in 2 weeks and planning for the next year will take place then. It will be a good place to get the men involved.
- Jennifer Weddle said that the United Methodist Women's Rockathon raised \$1,300. This was in place of the Harvest of the Hands which has been discontinued. The Knitting Circle and the Artisans group will have things for sale before Christmas though.
- Pat Becker reported that there is talk of combining with the Woodridge church on a trip to Honduras. Four people are going to Refugee One.
- Beth Hagemeyer said there are exciting plans for Christian Education for advent and next year.
- Nate Burke said that the new phone system has been approved and should be easy to move when it needs to be relocated for the building renovations.
- Adam Cook thanked Joyce Brunsting for including the kids in the nominations for positions in the church.
- Chris Garofalo said there is an exciting group of concerts and services coming up. The schedule for Christmas Eve has been established. There are four services and a Christmas concert.
- Forrest Rice reported that one person has agreed to serve as a co-chair of the Library Committee but he is concerned about what will happen if we don't find a second co-chair.
- Pastor Sarah reported that the church is growing. There were 3 families with 4 children in the new members' class and another 5 people who couldn't make the class. The families are getting

involved. Comments she has heard from them are that the church is very welcoming and that people are genuine.

- Ollie Taylor said he is excited about what is happening on the committees he is a part of and finds it a joy to work with them. Rich said he should pat himself on the back for all he does.
- Gary Chipman is getting the membership reports ready for the church council
- Lynn Priess said the Evangelism Committee has two pages of ideas. They need to prioritize them and meet with the pastors.
- Sally Hines reported that the Hunger Commission is disbursing \$3,000, \$1,000 each to a school in Kenya for a water system, a hunger project in Appalachia and another project in South Sudan.
- Pastor Grace thanked Al for being Stewardship Chair for 3 years. She acknowledged Beth Buffington for her design of the ABC logo. 2016 will be a big year with the General Conference, elections and the Worldwide Conference.

The next meeting will be on November 30th at 7 pm to discuss and approve the budget. The Church Conference is on Dec. 2nd at 7 p.m.

Pastor Sarah asked us to take a moment to acknowledge veterans in honor of Veterans' Day. She read Psalm 27 and led the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. (See additional reports for the Building Committee, Budget (youth ministry addendum), Finance, CUMC Foundation, Missions, Music Ministry, Sr. Outreach, SPRC and the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary