

Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2016

Members Attending: Pat Becker, Al Brunsting, Joyce Brunsting, Nate Burke, Adam Cook, Brenda DeGeer, Paul Dude, Rich Fleming, Chris Garofalo, George Groves, Beth Hagemeyer, Sally Hines, Pastor Grace Imathiu, Rich Kaffka, Kevin Markwell, Jim McCloud, Mark Overstreet, Lynn Pries, Ollie Taylor, Mike Wu Guests: Bill Matthews, David Gray, Craig Hoffman. Tabin Vrba

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

Audit: Paul Dude opened the presentation of the audit by saying that the Discipline states that Finance must do an independent audit every year. The audit identifies people that must be examined including the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, the person who does the bank reconciliations, the counters and the Finance Chair. The Council was not asked to approve the audit. The audit will go to the Finance Committee in Jan. or Feb. He invited anyone with questions to email Bill Matthews who is the Audit Chair at matth2000@Ymail.com. Bill Matthews thanked the Audit team from North Central College who have also volunteered to do next year's audit. David Gray, a professor at North Central who oversaw the audit, said he chose two people from his class to do the audit (Craig Hoffman, and Tabin Vrba) and they followed the Local Church Audit Guide. The team reported on the audit activities and suggested the church should probably have a complete listing of all the properties. They reported that the records are in excellent condition. The report will be on the church's website for the Council to view. (See report)
Rich Kaffka thanked the team for what he said was the most professional audit we've had in a long time and added that our Treasurer, Brenda DeGeer, is the best he has ever worked with.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as written.

Finance: Paul Dude reported that there will be a meeting on Dec. 26th to work on the budget. Brenda DeGeer reviewed the Treasurer's Report and said that we are almost \$17K over where we were last year at this time. Expenses are all under budget. November was weak and is a little behind last year. Operating cash is down a little but the hope is that December will bring it back up. We have \$862K in the building fund. (See report).

Stewardship: The average pledge this year is up but the number of pledges is down. Al Brunsting asked Mark Overstreet where we expect to end up with the Stewardship campaign and Mark said the expectation is that we will be about 10% lower than last year. A discussion followed regarding the possible reasons. Paul Dude thanked Mark Overstreet for the efforts of the Stewardship team. Mark believes the campaign could have been more aggressive. Further discussion revolved around what could be done to make up the difference. George Groves asked if we have a high attendance at Christmas could that carry over and help for next year and the answer was that there is no carryover.

Building Committee: Kevin Markwell reported that he is cautiously optimistic as one of the three bids that came in is attainable. These are actual bids, not estimates. The bids that came in were very competitive. The low bid is for \$2.1M and with some additional costs we will be about \$900K short. About \$1.5M has been pledged. On Sunday Kevin will ask people to commit to give more or extend their pledges to see if we can come up with the difference. The Committee will meet with the bank to verify the ability to get a line of credit. A church conference will be held on January 29 to report the results of this new Appeal. If we receive \$900K in commitments then the building plan approved by the church in 2104 will begin. If we come up short then the Building Committee will seek approval to spend money to design a new but scaled back plan.

Roundtable:

- Pat Becker said the Mission Committee will be participating in the Habitat for Humanity House Faith Build House for 2017 and may do a benefit on Fat Tuesday involving chili and jazz.

- Joyce Brunsting reported that the nominations are all set.
- Chris Garofalo said he is thankful that the choir is dedicated enough to take on some really difficult pieces.
- Nate Burke brought up the work on Saturday at the Lansdale parsonage to get it set for the new pastor.
- Beth Hagemeyer said the Children's Ministry is doing well and they are looking forward to Christmas Eve.
- Derrick Swistak said there have been some nice outings involving some fun times.
- Mike Wu said some members of the Foundation team met with the Northern Illinois Foundation President and may be using more of their services.
- Lynn Priess passed out invitations to the Christmas Eve Services and said it is an optimal time to invite people to church. He also asked for volunteers to greet and usher.
- Brenda DeGeer said that SPRC has put on a beautiful lunch for the staff and thanked SPRC.

Pastor's report: Pastor Grace said that we had spent 2/3 of our meeting time talking about money. She brought up the fact that God came to us with no money – he was broke. Thinking about that should help us when we're anxious about money. We should focus on how many people have committed their lives to Christ instead. She said she is so grateful for the Director of the OnCenter service because he has made her work load easier. She said SPRC has helped her by getting her assistance. This has eliminated 20 hours of work per week for her. She reviewed the Christmas Eve service themes and said we will be proud of the services if we invite friends or neighbors.

Rich Fleming said that the next meeting will be on Feb. 15th and we will probably approve the budget at that meeting.

Pastor Grace led the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines, Secretary

See additional reports from Foundation, Missions, Music, Senior Ministry, the Audit report and Trustees.