Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2025

Members Attending: Evie Burke, Nate Burke, Sharon deWaard, Rich Fleming, Sally Hines, Katie Lapham, Emily Les, Mary Catherine Long, Mark Norman, Deacon Sharon Rice, Pat Steinhaus, Pastor Jacob Tipitansig-Wolverton, Amanda Zigterman.

Deacon Sharon Rice opened the meeting with a devotion at 7:03 pm. Chair Rich Fleming invited the members to share "God Up Moments."

MINUTES: The minutes for the May 5th meeting were approved.

FINANCE: Finance Chair Sharon de Waard said we were doing well at the end of May and are tracking with pledged giving. Expenses totaled $301,983. Unpledged giving put us over budget for a net income total of $46,326. We are heading into the slow months of summer but we have increased our coverage to 4 months of coverage which is above our 3 month goal. The report was approved.

SPRC: Katie Lapham who is a member of SPRC filled in for Zach Zigterman and deferred to a discussion to be held later in the meeting.

TRUSTEES: Nate Burke said that the HVAC subcommittee made a recommendation to the Trustees on the HVAC project. The Trustees will meet in 2 weeks to make a decision on a recommendation which will go before the Church Council. There was a very successful workday which included a lot of painting and sprucing up of the building. Council Chair Rich Fleming thanked Nate and Al Brunsting for all the work they did gathering information on HVAC systems that has enabled the subcommittee to come up with a recommendation.

FAITH FORMATION: Emily Les reported that there are 19 campers and 13 volunteers set for the Creative Arts Camp beginning on July 14th. Sunday School will start on August 24th. There are plans to attend a Kane County Cougar game on August 1st and there will be a back-to-school bash as well.

OUTREACH: Amanda Zigterman reported that 55 people participated in the Aurora Gay Pride Parade June 8th. A past church member told her how happy she was to see Community Church so well represented there. The weather was beautiful, and photos will be in the July newsletter. Diversity is continuing to advocate for inclusion at the District 203 school board meetings. Many CUMC members participated in Hands Across Chicagoland on May 18th which was a peaceful protest of illegal and authoritarian actions. Many members participated in the No Kings protest on June 14th in downtown Naperville. Naper Pride will be held at the Naper Settlement on September 13th. November 20th is the Trans Day of Remembrance. On July 15th the Creative Arts Camp will hold a mission activity to pack mission bags and lunches. On July 20th the Hunger Commission will hold a Drive Thru food drive. The Marketing team presented drafts of fliers for the Center Street Closet.

PASTOR JACOB: Jacob spoke about Awake Illinois which is an organization in Naperville that opposes LGBTQ rights. They have been raising an issue about a transgender female athlete who has won track meets in District 203. They have recently announced that Awake is closing. It may be so that some of the leaders can run in upcoming elections. Amanda Zigterman was interviewed on Fox News. We hope to have the new website finished by August 1st.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL: Katie Lapham talked about the temporary move of the Contemporary Worship Service. On June 30th the service moved because of problems

with air conditioning in the Sanctuary. Since then, it has been decided to hold the service there for 8 weeks because we want to extend outreach to people who might not be comfortable in a traditional church setting. It is an opportunity to explore whether this might attract those people and we are collecting feedback about the move. The Worship Planning team is trying to balance church traditions with new ways of reaching out and she asked for prayers about the process. There are lots of different opinions and it is hoped that through prayer we can discern what's best. We want unity and grace to extend to both services. The Welcoming Team is trying to increase the number of people on the team.

Evie raised an issue that there are sometimes homeless people in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings and the kids just run off and run around on their own. It is important that we remember Safe Sanctuaries and that adults who are there are watching the kids and paying attention.

Pastor Jacob said that the Missions Committee is considering and intergenerational work trip for kids from Middle School and on up to Henderson Settlement in Frakes Kentucky in June of next year and we need to have a head count on participants by Aug. 1st.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Pastor Jacob said that in 2021 we held a visioning and planning session on reclaiming our why but we never followed up on it. Naperville is different than many cities because it has so many different cultures. It has changed over the years. We need to think about who we are today and what we should be doing. We have a member whose job is in strategic planning who wants to offer resources to help the Council begin this process. The 8 weeks with the contemporary service in Fellowship Hall is the beginning. Jacob asked that we begin that discussion. We are 75% there on our capital campaign. How do we get kids excited about going to church? Studies show that the Methodist church has a 25% retention rate for young people while 75% of young people at non-denominational churches remain engaged. An open discussion included several ideas.

- We need to promote a culture of warmth and friendliness. Smile and say hello to everyone. If someone new is in the Welcome Center on Sunday morning we need to engage them and connect with them.
- We need to think about what it is about non-denominational churches like the Yellow Box church that enables them to retain their young people.
- We should focus on a new kind of Christianity with a message that helps people understand their faith can help them during the troubled times and chaos we are experiencing now. We need to communicate that the church has evolved and there are new ways of understanding the Bible and Jesus's message.
- We need to build relationships with people, especially new people.
- We need to simplify the way the church works. We're spending too much time in committee meetings. Getting the go ahead to install new windows involved several committees. Decision making is slow and cumbersome.

This is just the beginning of the conversation. We need to think and pray about it.

Pastor Jacob led the closing prayer at 8:14.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines
Recording Secretary