

Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes March 2014

DATE: March 23, 2014

ATTENDEES: Paul Conner, Dan Fagnani, Alice Galt, Randy Hall, Erik Hazel, Pastor Sarah McCann, Carolyn Mulhall, Sue Rainer, Jennifer Taylor, Carol Sullivan Weis, Kristine Wentzien, and Pastor Ed Zumwinkel

ABSENTEES: Andy Karcher, Dave Kreighbaum

DECISIONS MADE:

NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

GENERAL NOTES:

OPENING

The meeting was called to order by Paul Conner at 12:00 p.m. Pastor Sarah McCann opened with a prayer.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February Council Meeting were approved with minor corrections. (Ministry Updates/Special Events – Carol Sullivan Weis reported on the Spaghetti Supper.)

E-VOTES

The review of e-votes will be part of Old Business starting in April. March e-votes were:

1. Yes – Hiring Chelsea Spence as a childcare worker
2. No – Purchasing an ad on the KSDK website for \$99/month
3. Unknown – Renting church space to an Al-Anon group

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alice Galt reviewed changes made to the Balance Sheet – eliminating some items and changing the names of others. She is organizing a file for each employee (contracts, w-2 forms, etc.).

Although 2013 books are not officially closed, all accounts have been “trued-up” by Gina. Information from the Finance and Insurance Ministry team is needed to close the books. Clinton Rice and Andy Karcher are to work on this.

All benevolence commitments from 2013 have been met leaving \$18,218.70 in the Benevolence Fund. Alice made a motion and Kristine seconded to transfer the remaining \$18,218.70 in the Benevolence Fund to the General Fund. (This will eliminate the Benevolence Fund from the Balance Sheet.)

Paul made a motion and Carol seconded to transfer the balances from the Sydney McKenna Wentworth Fund (\$36.67) and the Betty Hall Memorial Fund (\$22.62) to the General Fund.

Due to generous giving in February the deficit was reduced although the gas bill was \$2,099 and the budgeted amount was \$833.

PASTORS' REPORT

The Pastors' Report was circulated. Pastor Ed attended a Stewardship Conference in March.

OLD BUSINESS

Endowment Fund (EF)

Pastor Ed reported that he learned at the Stewardship Conference which he attended that there should be basic policy guidelines for receiving gifts for the Endowment Fund. The congregation should be informed when money is withdrawn from the EF and told how it will be used. Planned giving and endowments are increasingly important ways to support churches. It was suggested to change the Finance and Insurance Ministry name to Planned Giving. Alice, Pastor Sarah and Pastor Ed will work on a plan to present to Council in May.

ONA Progress Toward Ministry Status

The ONA Ministry has had some discussion about broadening its scope to include race, youth, aging, and human-trafficking issues and maybe become the Social Injustice Ministry. Dan said the group hadn't had a full discussion on the proposal.

Chapel Flexibility

Feedback from Council was positive regarding the March 20 visit to the Sisters of Notre Dame Motherhouse. Next steps include:

1. Council approves changes to the Hope Chapel
2. Council moves forward finding an outside facilitator
3. Erik, Carol, Pastor Sarah, Pastor Ed will organize future meetings

Regarding Chapel Flexibility, this dialogue will continue at the April 10 Council Meeting.

Ministry Guidance Update

Survey report – 175 surveys were distributed; 103 surveys were completed. Paul is working through the responses and passed a hand-out coding the likes/dislikes of the congregation. More information and analysis will be available to Council in April. Cottage Meetings are tentatively planned for May.

Deacon Description

Pastor Ed explained that deacons appear in the Bible in Chapter 3 of 1 Timothy. They are respected members of the congregation whose duties may include serving on a Board (similar to Council) and performing specific tasks in the church (i.e. communion duties). After discussion, a motion was made by Paul and seconded by Alice to create a group of Communion Deacons at Hope. The motion passed. Dan felt that a group of Deacons would be welcomed by the Worship Ministry. Pastor Sarah and Pastor Ed will organize this group.

Communion

Names suggested to help with Communion prep and clean-up were Susan Meyer and PJ Wentzien. Council adjourned to the sanctuary to rehearse procedures for pew and intinction communion. Randy Hall will contact Council prior to Communion Sundays to make serving assignments.

NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raising (FR) Implementation

Paul distributed the results of the FR survey. He will contact the person in championing the top 3 programs (expanded script, pro-sports concession stands, sponsored restaurant nights) to determine if they are interested in moving forward. Other possible projects are game nights, on-going dollar bill drives, on-going “change for change,” and pledge drives that could go viral.

Bookkeeper Duties

Alice reported that Gina is now working about 6 hours/wk. and has offered to assume doing work that ADP has been doing (payroll, tax filing, etc.). After discussion it was decided that Gina and ADP should continue with their current duties for now.

70th Anniversary of Hope Project: Little Libraries

Pastor Sarah said that in celebration of this anniversary at Hope it has been suggested by Worship Ministry and YAC Ministry that the church establish a “Little Library” housed outdoors somewhere on the property. Used books are collected and are available for “check-out” by church members or church neighbors. Several “Little Libraries” are located in the St. Louis area. Grace UCC has one and has funds available to help start other “Little Libraries.” Following discussion, a motion was made by Pastor Ed and seconded by Randy to accept the “Little Libraries” as Hope’s 70th Anniversary Project. The motion passed. Joyce DeNeal (Worship), Sarah Erwin (YAC), and Jennifer Taylor will coordinate the project. Building and Property Ministry will be consulted about where to put the “Little Library” on the church grounds.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Carol invited the group to share memories of a favorite childhood vacation.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Building & Property

Randy reported that items around the church in need of repair have been put in priority order in preparation for the October St. Louis Hills Open House. He also asked if anyone had an idea for items to put in the foyer display case. The McCann Family crèche collection was a suggestion.

Finance & Insurance

No report

Hospitality

Carolyn said more people are needed to prepare and host the Sunday donut table. Kristine said she would ask PJ about helping out.

Outreach

Sue stated that a mission trip to Honduras was being planned by Peace UCC, Webster Groves, this summer. Other church members are welcome!

Pastoral & Staff Relations

No report

Special Events

No report

Stewardship

No report

Worship & Liturgical Arts

No report

Youth & Children's Ministries

VBS will be held July 7-11 this year. Jeanne Ryan has announced this will be her last year serving as VBS chair. Hopefully someone will be available to work with Jeanne this year and become VBS chair in 2015.

FUTURE DATES

Thursday, April 3 – Ministry Night

Thursday, April 10 – Council Meeting; Open Discussion – Sue

This month's report to the congregation – Carol

CLOSING

Following a closing prayer by Pastor Ed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Sue Rainer, Assistant Secretary