

## **Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes April 2014**

**DATE:** April 10, 2014

**ATTENDEES:** Paul Conner, Dan Fagnani, Alice Galt, Erik Hazel, David Kreighbaum, Carolyn Mulhall, Sue Rainer, Jennifer, Taylor, Kristine Wentzien, Carol Sullivan Weis, Pastor Sarah, Pastor Ed, and Eden Student Josh Gibson

**ABSENTEES:** Randy Hall and Andy Karcher

### **DECISIONS MADE:**

1. Council approved four recommendations from the Finance and Insurance Ministry for changes to Endowment Fund policy.
2. Council approved using money from the General Fund to fulfill outstanding financial obligations to Heifer International and Shannondale.
3. Council approved sponsoring an Eden Seminary student for the 2014-2015 school year.

### **NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:**

### **GENERAL NOTES:**

#### OPENING

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Sarah.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were approved. Activity via electronic communication: The request from an Al-Anon group to use a room at Hope was withdrawn because another facility had been acquired.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The March 31, 2014 Financial Report “snapshot” page was passed out. It showed that March income was \$25,082.42 and expenses were \$34,363.72 – resulting in a difference of (\$9,281.30). Adding that to the previous year-to-date balance results in a negative amount of (\$7,879.93) in the General Fund as of March 31.

#### PASTORS’ REPORT

The Pastor’s Report was distributed. Holy Week events include:

4/12 – Palm Sunday Confirmation & Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms

4/17 – Maundy Thursday Seder dinner, communion, and an all-night vigil

4/18 – Good Friday service and Hope Lunch Bunch.

## OLD BUSINESS

### *Endowment Fund Policy Changes*

Alice reported that the Finance & Insurance Ministry recommended the following changes to the current investments and fund balances:

1. The A.G. Edwards Russell Funds-8232 (account #1.103.00) should be the appropriate and sole vehicle for the investment of the Endowment Fund.
2. The Treasurer should be authorized and directed (retroactive to December 31, 2013) to conform the balance in the Endowment Fund to the balance in the A.G. Edwards Russell Funds account. The excess of the Endowment Fund over the A.G. Edwards Russell Funds account should be transferred to the General Fund (account # 3.100.000).
3. Effective January 1, 2014 all gains and losses in the Russell Funds account shall be allocated to the Endowment Fund and all gains and losses in other assets shall be allocated to the General Fund.
4. Since outstanding benevolence payments were made in January, the balance showing in the Benevolence Fund (account #3.400.00) should be transferred to the General Fund.

After discussion, it was moved (Alice), seconded (Carol Sullivan Weis) and passed by Council to accept the above recommendations from the Finance and Insurance Ministry.

It was also suggested by the Finance and Insurance Ministry that Council should consider adopting a new policy for handling and allocating bequests and memorial gifts.

### *Chapel Flexibility Plans/Activities*

Erik said that Building & Property was checking into the leaky roof issue and felt that other big ticket items should be completed before moving forward with plans for changes to the Chapel.

### *Ministry Guidance Survey and Cottage Meetings*

Paul is completing the analysis of the surveys and will set a date for the subcommittee to meet in preparation for the Cottage Meetings in May or June.

### *ONA Ministry*

Dan said the ministry has not determined what its scale or focus will be. April 27 is ONA Dedication Sunday.

### *Fundraising Implementation*

Paul reported the following members will head these fund-raising projects:

1. Scripts – Jennifer Conrad
2. Dining Out Nights – Denise Buck,
3. Sport Concessions and Game Nights – Tim Mulhall.

### *Little Libraries (70th Anniversary of Hope Project)*

Pastor Sarah, Joyce DeNeal, Sarah Erwin, Sue Rainer, and Jennifer Taylor met to discuss the Little Libraries program. There are no Little Libraries in the immediate Hope area. Several are in the Carondelet Park area including at Grace UCC. Some of the questions to be considered are: Where will the box be located on Hope property? How many volunteers will be needed? Who will build the box? Who will replenish the books? Pastor Sarah suggested that plans for the project should be ready to announce to the congregation in June around the date of the 70th anniversary.

### *School's Out Café Initiative*

Sue sent an email to the Youth Nutrition Office at St. Louis City Hall. This program is looking for sites to host nutritious free breakfasts and lunches for children in lower income areas during the summer. It was discussed that perhaps Hope could be a host center during one of the weeks towards the end of summer after the Neighborhood Houses program was over. Eden Intern Josh suggested perhaps an Eden student might coordinate the program at Hope. Perhaps Hope members could go to another site to assist with meals. Other summer volunteer opportunities are usually highlighted in the summer edition of the Builder.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *Roof Leaks*

Erik reported for Randy Hall that last week's heavy rains caused the roof to leak.

1. \$900.00 to troubleshoot leak in the Sanctuary.
2. Leaks in the HopeMark storeroom (old balcony in the Chapel).
3. Leak in the Sanctuary may affect the soundboard in the balcony.

### *2014-2015 Eden Seminary Student Minister*

Pastor Sarah reported that Hope received a letter from Eden Seminary inviting the church to sponsor a student minister for the 2014-2015 school year. Hope would be responsible for giving the student a stipend of \$470/month from September-May. The student would work 14-15 hours/week at Hope while attending Eden. After discussion, it was moved (Pastor Sarah), seconded (Carolyn), and passed by Council to sponsor an Eden Seminary student for the 2014-2015 school year.

## OPEN DISCUSSION

Open Discussion was led by Sue Rainer: What's your favorite Easter candy?

## MINISTRY ACTION ITEMS

### *Building & Property*

Erik reported for Randy that Monday, 4/14 the Alderwoman for Hope's ward will sponsor a meeting at Bishop DuBourg High School regarding the placement of a permanent stop sign at the corner of Tamm & Eichelberger (south side). Ron Zimmer will make a presentation in favor of the sign placement.

### *Finance & Insurance*

See recommendations for changes to Endowment Fund policies under Old Business.

### *Hospitality*

Carolyn reported that there is a need for more volunteers to help with the Sunday coffee hour.

### *Outreach*

Carolyn reported that because of Lonny Davis' research, it was discovered that Hope owes Heifer International \$1,761.58 and Shannondale \$45.00 from previous years. These will need to be paid from the General Fund. Lonny is a "friend" of the Outreach Ministry and works closely with Gina and Michelle. After discussion it was moved (Carolyn), seconded (Erik), and passed by Council to fulfill our financial obligations to Heifer International and Shannondale. Most 2014 Outreach checks will be written quarterly.

### *Pastoral & Staff Relations*

No report

### *Special Events*

No report

### *Stewardship*

David reported that the ministry team met with Pastor Ed who had attended a stewardship conference. The take-away from it was that planned giving and bequests are vitally important to the future of a church.

### *Worship & Liturgical Arts*

No report. Carol asked if there were plans to have the "flowering cross" on the lawn on Easter. Because of all the other activities planned for Easter, the flowering cross was eliminated this year. Carol volunteered to check to see if it was too late to plan for a cross this year.

### *Youth & Children's Ministries*

Kristine reported that they are planning outdoor activities for Sunday School this summer. It will be for kids and adults with a different topic/activity each week. Any ideas or suggestions for programs are welcome.

### FUTURE DATES

In May, Erik Hazel will lead Open Discussion, give the Council Report to the congregation and submit the "Council Corner" article to the Builder.

### CLOSING

The closing prayer was led by Pastor Ed.

Submitted by,  
Sue Rainer, Assistant Secretary