

Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – August 2014

DATE: August 21, 2014

ATTENDEES: Paul, Dan, Alice, Erik, Andy, Pastor Sarah, Carolyn, Sue, Carol, Kristine, Pastor Ed, Dave, and Jennifer

ABSENTEES: Randy

DECISIONS MADE:

1. Council voted in the affirmative to hire Jake as a child care worker.
2. The new member dinner will be on September 26, 2014.
3. Council voted to support Phil in his Member in Discernment process.
4. Council voted to hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2014.
5. Council approved the purchase of \$2,000 of scrip gift cards (\$1,000 from both Shop n Save and Dierberg's)

NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

1. Andy and Jennifer will spearhead the new member dinner.
2. Jennifer will notify and work with the Pastoral and Staff Relations Ministry to support Phil in his Member in Discernment process.
3. Alice will assemble and lead the 2015 Budget Committee. Kristine will serve as another Council representative. Alice will follow up on names suggested by Council to serve on the committee.
4. Randy will assemble and chair the 2015 Nominating Committee. Dan volunteered to serve as another Council representative. Randy will follow up on names suggested by Council to serve on the committee.
5. Paul will announce the upcoming Building and Property Ministry work days as part of his Council update to the congregation.
6. Joyce will put up signup sheets to recruit volunteers for both the Building and Property Ministry work days and the actual St. Louis Hills House Tour.
7. Pastor Sarah will follow up with the Resurrection of Christ American Catholic National Church representative regarding use of Hope for their worship services.

8. Pastor Ed will continue to work with Sara, Autum, and Joyce on an updated member photo directory.
9. Erik will work with Building and Property Ministry to develop a specific set of building closure procedures for meetings at Hope.

GENERAL NOTES:

OPENING

The meeting was opened by Paul at 7:02 p.m. Pastor Ed led us in an opening prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 2014 Council Meeting were approved with minor edits.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alice presented the Financial Report. The big item of note was that we had a monthly surplus for July of \$4,286.11. Alice also highlighted the work she and Gina have done to improve financial transparency in financial reporting. Among these changes is changing the name of the General Fund to the Operating fund. Other changes include highlighting restricted vs. unrestricted funds. The Future of Hope Fund has also been changed to the Reserve Fund per the congregational meeting. Alice also reported that in order to cover bills we sold \$10,000 worth of the Income Fund of America investment.

PASTORS' REPORT

The pastors distributed a written report. Items of particular interest included the fact that attendance was up approximately 14% for summer 2014 as compared to summer 2013. They also highlighted Art in the Park coming up the last Sunday in September. Finally, the pastors discussed their attendance at events held by the UCC in Ferguson and their gratitude for the contributions of supplies to the people of Ferguson from the congregation at large.

OLD BUSINESS

Scrip Program

Pastor Sarah updated Council via electronic communication on the information requested regarding purchasing scrip gift cards from Shop n Save and Dierberg's. Specifically, Sarah stated that Shop n Save requires a \$1,000 minimum purchase. Dierberg's has no minimum. After a brief discussion it was recommended that Hope purchase \$2,000 (\$1,000 from each store) in scrip gift cards. The motion passed with a majority of Council voting in the affirmative via electronic vote on July 27, 2014.

Ministry Guidance

Paul reported that the confidential information gathered as part of the ministry guidance efforts will be deleted but reports will remain available. Paul says he continues to get good feedback on the reports.

Special Congregational Meeting

Alice clarified that although distribution to the General Fund has been changed, undesignated gifts will still go to the Reserve Fund. Carol and Erik reported that they feel the presentation and discussion went well.

Minutes of the congregational meeting were discussed and Council had no edits at this time. Meeting minutes will be approved at the next Annual Meeting.

Deacon Program

Pastor Ed reported that he has been successful in recruiting deacons for the deacon program. He has recruited four individuals to be deacons and has an additional two individuals he is awaiting responses from. He plans to put together a deacon training to discuss the theology and procedures surrounding communion. This will be done in conjunction with the Worship and Liturgical Arts Ministry.

Resurrection of Christ American Catholic National Church

Pastor Sarah reported that it has been three weeks since initial contact with Resurrection of Christ American Catholic National Church regarding use of Hope for their weekly worship. No additional communication has been received by Hope. After a brief discussion, Council recommended that one more attempt be made at contact before we decide to pursue or not pursue this partnering opportunity. Sarah will follow up with the Resurrection of Christ American Catholic National Church representative.

Chapel Flexibility

Pastor Ed reported that he is still working to get in contact with Sister Joyelle. Council inquired about where the funds for her mediation would come from. Erik suggested that it come from the Cheryl Hazel Memorial Fund.

St. Louis Hills House Tour

Carol said they continue to work on readying the church for the House Tour. Paul will announce the upcoming work days as part of his Council update to the congregation. Joyce will put up signup sheets to recruit volunteers for both the work days and the actual tours.

Little Libraries

Jennifer reported that they continue to work on schematics and location for the Little Library. They plan to have a meeting on August 31, 2014 to further discuss details. The committee plans to solicit books from the congregation and neighborhood.

Photo Directory

Pastor Ed reported that Sara, Autum, and Joyce have volunteered to help with the photo directory update. He will continue to work with these individuals to keep the process moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

New Childcare Worker

Via electronic discussion, Katie submitted Jake as a potential candidate for the position of childcare worker for Council's consideration. After a brief electronic discussion, the majority of the Council voted in the affirmative to hire Jake as a child care worker via electronic vote on August 5, 2014.

Ministry Guidance

Erik spoke about how to form a membership/marketing task force. Erik has started to gauge individuals' interest to serve on this new ministry.

Paul shared other ideas that have come forward that he summarized and shared with Council. Paul asked Council to consider these items and come to the next Council Meeting with specific questions and suggestions on how to act upon these items.

Council briefly discussed some of the concerns around finance reflected in the ministry guidance efforts. After a brief discussion, Paul agreed to put it on the next Council Meeting agenda.

Nominating Committee

Pastor Sarah stated that we need to appoint a Nominating Committee for 2015. Randy will chair this committee and Dan volunteered to serve as another Council representative. Council provided other names for Randy to consider. Randy will assemble this committee and report back to Council.

Budget Committee

Pastor Sarah stated that we need to appoint a Budget Committee to form the 2015 budget. Alice, Treasurer, will lead this committee. Kristine, Assistant Treasurer, will serve as another Council representative. Council provided other names for Alice to consider. Alice will assemble this committee and report back to Council.

Annual Meeting

Paul stated that we need to set a date for the Annual Meeting. After a brief discussion, Paul moved and Erik seconded to hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2014. The motion passed.

Member in Discernment – Phil

Pastor Sarah reported that Phil has petitioned Council to have Hope sponsor him as his home church as he goes through the discernment process. The pastors explained that discernment is a process that those seeking to become ordained pastors in the UCC take to determine if ordained ministry is their true calling. After a brief discussion, Carolyn moved and Jennifer seconded that we support Phil in his discernment process. The motion passed. Jennifer will notify and work with the Pastoral and Staff Relations Ministry to support Phil in his efforts.

New Member Dinner

Pastor Sarah reported that given the number of recent new members, a new members' dinner was in order. After a brief discussion, Council decided that it will be on September 26, 2014. Andy and Jennifer will spearhead the event.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Building and Property

Erik reported that the Building and Property Ministry would like to create a list of closing procedures for meetings held at Hope. After a brief discussion, Council asked that the Building and Property Ministry develop a specific set of procedures for Council consideration. Erik will take this task to Building and Property Ministry.

Finance and Insurance

No Report

Hospitality

No Report

Outreach

Paul reported that we received an outreach opportunity from Easter Seals.

Special Events

No Report

Stewardship

No Report

Pastoral and Staff Relations

No Report

Worship and Liturgical Arts

No Report

Youth and Children

Kristine reported that Youth and Children's Ministry is still looking for additional child care workers.

CLOSING

With no further business appearing, the meeting was closed at approximately 9:05 p.m. with a prayer by Pastor Sarah.

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary Andy