

## **Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – November 2014**

**DATE:** November 13, 2014

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

**ABSENTEES:** Dan, Kristine

### **DECISIONS MADE:**

1. Council voted to formally establish Hope UCC as a Global Mission Church under the guidelines of the Joint Global Mission Church Program sponsored by the UCC and Disciples of Christ.
2. With the caveat that Hope is appropriately covered for this on its insurance, a majority of Council voted in the affirmative to allow a group of Mizzou students from the Missouri Alternative Breaks group to spend the night at Hope on the evenings of November 14, 15, and possibly 16, 2014 as they do service work with the Confluence Academy Old North. This vote was taken via e-mail on October 26, 2014.

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

1. Andy will follow up with bookkeeper Gina in December on potential data entry errors that may be causing financial fund irregularities.
2. The following individuals will handle the following administrative tasks at the annual meeting: Carol and Jennifer will hand out materials; Carolyn will advance PowerPoint slides for the various presentations; Andy will serve as parliamentarian and record minutes; Sue will assist with the microphone for those in the congregation wishing to speak.
3. Paul will follow up with the Mizzou students and the church office to identify a new date for the Missouri Alternative Breaks trip.
4. Regarding the rental of the kitchen for food truck prep: Kristine will follow up with Hope's insurance; Erik will follow up with the potential renter and his references; Jennifer will follow up with a fellow UCC church who currently has a similar arrangement; Pastor Ed will contact Dan to see if he would be willing to write up a contract for this arrangement.
5. Paul asked that all Council members make personal invitations to individuals they feel would be a good fit for the Visitation Ministry.

## **GENERAL NOTES:**

### OPENING

The meeting was opened by President Paul at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sarah led us in an opening prayer.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the October 16, 2014 Council Meeting were approved with no exceptions.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Alice presented the financial report. The big item of note was the monthly surplus of \$16,872 for the month of October. Some Council members expressed concern that certain fund balances seem to fluctuate irregularly or have balances inconsistent with their purpose. Andy volunteered to follow up with bookkeeper Gina in December on what may be causing these differences.

Alice also reported that the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC put out its annual salary guidelines for pastoral staff. Alice noted that Hope is paying both of its pastors below the minimum of \$77,563 given their experience of 16-20 years each and our congregation size of over 400 members. Alice will share pastor minimum salary guidelines with the congregation at the Annual Meeting as part of her budget presentation.

### PASTORS' REPORT

The pastors distributed a written report. Items of particular interest included those individuals in our thoughts and prayers with health concerns and the fact that the increase in attendance is becoming a trend.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### *Nominating Committee*

Randy reported that the committee has contacted potential new church leaders and is still working to finalize the slate. New additions to Hope's leadership team will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

#### *Becoming a Global Mission Church*

Sue reported that the Outreach Ministry has gone through a three year process of discerning if Hope is a Global Mission Church per the guidelines set out by the Global Mission Church program jointly sponsored by the UCC and Disciples of Christ. Through this process, the ministry has come to the conclusion that Hope holds up the principles of being a Global Mission Church. Sue further reported that the ministry is requesting that Council affirm their conclusion by making Hope a Global Mission Church. After a brief discussion Erik moved and Dave seconded that Hope be established as a Global Mission Church. The motion passed without exception.

#### *Annual Meeting Agenda*

Paul reported that various administrative tasks need to be assigned for the Annual Meeting. After brief discussion, it was determined that the following individuals will handle the following tasks: Carol and Jennifer will hand out materials; Carolyn will advance PowerPoint slides for the

various presentations; Andy will serve as parliamentarian and record minutes; Sue will assist with the microphone for those in the congregation wishing to speak.

### *Mizzou Alternative Spring Break*

Via electronic communication, Joyce informed Council that a group called Missouri Alternative Breaks from the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) had requested to use Hope for lodging for their semester break trip from November 14 through November 16, 2014. They would be coming to St. Louis to help the Confluence Academy Old North. This is a school of students K – 8 and they will be there tutoring students and helping with some maintenance of the school. This group goes on many of these trips each year across the country and internationally.

There will be approximately 10 people, aged 18 through 22, all Mizzou students, who are part of the group. They will be using the church for sleeping and eating. They were looking into other arrangements for showering and will be at the service site during the day. After brief discussion, with the caveat that Hope is appropriately covered for this on its insurance, a majority of Council voted in the affirmative to allow a group of Mizzou students from the Missouri Alternative Breaks group to spend the night at Hope on the evenings of November 14, 15, and possibly 16, 2014 as they do service work with the Confluence Academy Old North. This vote was taken via e-mail on October 26, 2014.

UPDATE: Paul reported that, due to extenuating circumstances, the group of Mizzou students elected to postpone their Alternative Breaks trip. They have asked to reschedule for March, 2015. Paul will follow up with the Mizzou students and the church office to identify a new date.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *Food Truck*

Pastor Ed reported that he and Erik had met with a chef who would like to use Hope's kitchen Tuesday through Saturday for his food truck business. He is licensed, insured and bonded, etc. Hope would need to share refrigeration, freezer, and shelf space in addition to the use of appliances.

The chef's use of the kitchen should not interfere with HopeMark Preschool or the Neighborhood Houses summer program. The chef stated that he is willing to work around Hope's schedule when needed and he will clean up after himself.

He is offering \$300-400 per month. Erik reported that the Building and Property Ministry has reviewed this proposal and, other than questions regarding how this affects our insurance coverage, found no issue with the proposal.

After brief discussion Council asked Erik and Ed to pursue this opportunity further. Erik will follow up with the potential renter and his references. Kristine will follow up with Hope's insurance. Jennifer will follow up with a fellow UCC church that currently has a similar arrangement to gauge what the benefits and potential pitfalls of such an arrangement might be. Pastor Ed will contact Dan to see if he would be willing to write up a contract for this arrangement.

## MINISTRY UPDATES

### *Building and Property*

Randy reported that a new solenoid for the kitchen dishwasher has been purchased and installed. This should improve the performance of the dishwasher.

### *Finance and Insurance*

No Report

### *Hospitality*

No Report

### *Outreach*

Minutes of the ministry meeting were submitted for Council's review.

### *Special Events*

No Report

### *Stewardship*

No Report

### *Pastoral and Staff Relations*

No Report

### *Worship and Liturgical Arts*

The Pastors reported that new decorations, including new trees and an outdoor nativity scene for the front of the church, have been purchased and will be put up for this year's Advent season. The new indoor decorations were made possible through the Christmas in July campaign. The outdoor nativity scene was made possible through the generosity of the Dippel family and the Art Dippel Memorial Fund.

### *Youth and Children*

No Report

### *Visitation Ministry*

Paul reported that the Visitation Ministry is looking for more members. Paul asked Council to make personal invitations to individuals they feel would be a good fit for this ministry.

### *Evangelism and Communication*

Erik reported that the ministry is making good progress on the re-launch of the Hope Facebook page. In addition, Erik reported that the ministry has purchased a new banner with Spread the Love of God funds allotted to evangelism. The banner was shared with Council with plans to share with the congregation before the next 10:30 worship service.

CLOSING

With no further business appearing, the meeting was closed at approximately 9:09 p.m. with a prayer by Pastor Ed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Secretary Andy