

Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – May 2015

DATE: May 21, 2015

ATTENDEES: Andy, Randy, Alice, Kristine, Dave, Erik, Jennifer, Bethel, Susan M, Susan R, Robbie, Paul, Pastor Ed

ABSENTEES: Pastor Sarah

DECISIONS MADE:

No decisions made by Council.

NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

1. Alice will research church's long distance usage in anticipation of phone plan change.
2. Alice will work with bookkeeper to determine a flag amount for need of transferring money to checking account from Endowment Fund.
3. Kristine will contact alderwoman regarding Town Meeting for conditional use permit for Chef David.
4. Council members will bring ideas for Faith Response to Violence to June meeting.
5. Council members will bring names of members who might be interested in Stewardship/Finance Ministry.

GENERAL NOTES:

OPENING

The meeting was opened by Pastor Ed at 7:04 PM. Pastor Ed led us in an opening prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 16, 2015 Council Meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alice presented the financial report for April 2015. In addition, Alice reviewed financial topics regarding the PayPal account and updating our phone plan. She is going to do research more on the phone bill.

There was discussion regarding in what form Hope should actually make the withdrawal of the annual allotment from the Endowment Fund – monthly, annually or when needed. Alice will work with the bookkeeper to figure out a flag if a mid-year transfer would be needed. Once a flag is found, Council will make a financial policy regarding such transfers.

PASTORS' REPORT

Pastor Ed distributed a written report. Highlights included higher attendance than in the previous year. On June 14 there will be 6 new members joining during the service. Ed also shared a Pew Foundation report on religions.

OLD BUSINESS

Kitchen Rental

Erik reported that the City of Saint Louis has approved the work needed. A part needed for work to begin was ordered and work will begin the week after Memorial Day. A request was made to contact the 16th Ward Alderwoman regarding the meeting needed to obtain a conditional use permit. Kristine volunteered. Once repairs are complete an electrical and health inspection will happen.

Faith Response to Violence

Conversation continued from the previous meeting on this topic. Potential ideas include a film series, book, joining conversations with neighboring churches, attending part of new series by Jennifer Joyce, and having a guest speaker.

Stewardship and Finance

Council divided into small groups to discuss the book "Not Your Parent's Offering Plate" and how the ideas from the book connect with Hope. The small groups then shared their thoughts and ideas and how they could incorporate with Hope. Susan M, Dave and Kristine volunteered to help rebuild a Stewardship/Finance Ministry. Council members will bring 3 names of individuals who might be interested.

Concert Fundraiser

Bethel reported that Erin Bode would be interested in performing a fund raising concert at Hope in August or September on a Sunday afternoon. She is gathering a team to work to schedule.

Crowdfunding

Paul reported that artist Vince Martin would be available for a fund raising concert on Saturday, Sept 26. Next step is to find local venue that could hold 300 people.

NEW BUSINESS

New Member BBQ

Instead of a new member dinner, Hope will host a New Member BBQ on Fri, Sept 18.

Council Retreat

Pastor Ed reported that, per previous discussion, there would be no Council Retreat in August. Council discussed and is looking at rescheduling the retreat in February.

Tech Team

This topic will be discussed at the June meeting.

Serving Communion in Balcony

Suggestion from communion deacons to serve communion to those seated in the balcony. This would require a 9th Council member for pew communion only. Council agreed this could be done.

Visitors at Baptisms

Susan raised the question regarding ushers showing visitors where they can sit for baptisms. This topic will be added to the June meeting. Dave will also take to Worship Committee the topic of usher's responsibilities.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Building and Property

Randy reported.

Finance & Insurance

No Verbal Report

Hospitality

No Verbal Report

Outreach

No Verbal Report

Special Events

No Verbal Report

Stewardship

No Verbal Report

Pastoral and Staff Relations

No Verbal Report

Worship & Liturgical Arts

No Verbal Report

Youth & Children

Bethel reported that a new curriculum has been chosen. Also there will be a confirmation class with 8 members.

Evangelism and Communication

Erik reported that the Ministry Fair will be postponed until the fall. In addition, the Facebook page will be moved to a new Group page.

CLOSING

With no further business appearing, the meeting was closed at approximately 9:25 PM with a prayer by Pastor Ed.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristine, Secretary