

**HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2015**

Present: Bethel, Andy, Alice, Robbie, Dave, Sue, Eric, Jennifer, Paul, Randy, Susan, Pastor Sarah

Absent: Kristine

I. OPENING PRAYER

Sarah offered opening prayer.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Andy)

Motion to approve the minutes by Randy. Seconded by Dave. Passed.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

July losses \$11,385.77. \$11,054.00 remaining in reserve fund predicted to last about 13 months. Paying more in summer for electricity because of AC. We take in about \$5200 per week. Typically larger deficits in the summer because of electricity and lower attendance.

Paul requested that the average monthly loss be viewed over 12-month period, rather than just from beginning of calendar year. Andy will meet with Gina to develop Excel chart for better understanding of financial information. Sarah thinks it would be helpful in the remaining months to make sure we included that we are saving at least \$5000 a month for this remaining fiscal year because of changing from co-pastors to solo pastor.

Need to have officers sign Wells Fargo paperwork.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Pastor Sarah)

- Reminder about the Erin Bode concert.
- Confirmation: 7 students and mentors for all. Starting in September. Confirmation on Palm Sunday 2016.
- Communion by intinction on September 6 because of it being a holiday weekend. Several weeks of no donuts. Need to talk that up.
- Ministry Fair September 13.
- Attendance is consistently down in July and August, a bit more so this year than last.
- Paul suggesting "Invite a Friend to Church" to bump up numbers. Tried in past but worth a try again. Erik will take idea to Evangelism & Communication Ministry Team.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. *Membership Review Clarifications*

Discussion of membership rolls: Current estimation is 255 active members, 30 non-members who attend on a regular basis, 34 inactive members, 69 new baptisms, totaling 388. This is based on by-law definitions of membership.

Sarah pointed out only her salary is based on this number, using the Conference guidelines established each year by the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Randy suggested further discussion on criteria on how we determine membership. Erik says we should have a subcommittee to look into this. Subcommittee established to define membership: Alice, Dave, and Randy volunteer, Andy would be a “friend,” help with number-crunching.

Sarah suggested we focus use of membership rolls for pastoral/congregational care. Sarah will share with Visitation Ministry the idea of expanding to phone calls to inactive members. Andy willing to work with expanding the mission.

To do: come back with one or two names of people to help the Visitation Ministry.

2. *Update on Richard David and the Kitchen*

We passed mechanical inspection and building inspection. Next and final step is health inspection. Chef David will go downtown and arrange for that. We discussed his needs. He will use some of our storage, along with his own small freezer. All is clear with Building & Property on this. We still need to check the insurance. Erik hasn't seen the original contract; he'll need that to go to insurance. We have to readdress the price we're going to charge, to be discussed later. We can discuss later. Before health inspection, it was suggested to have someone come in and clean the kitchen extremely well. Possible problem with health inspection might be that we don't have a separate sink for hand-washing.

Fire suppression system will need the alarm inspected twice a year. Erik proposed (from the Building & Property) that we contract with Pyrotech, Inc., to do the semi-annual inspection at \$95 each.

Contract is not signed, just written and tendered. Erik will get a copy to review the rent we agreed upon.

Erik will be setting up all the areas in the kitchen that will be Chef David's (ex: shade over his shelves, etc.).

3. *Stewardship Team Progress*

David says they have a committee together and will be meeting on Sunday after church. Once the group gets traction, they hope to make progress and get more people interested.

4. *Erin Bode Concert*

Bethel thanked folks for signing up to greet people. Sarah will give a welcome speech. Bethel has asked someone from Building & Property team to give a little speech about why we are doing this – benefiting the new kitchen.

5. *Vince Martin Concert*

Paul reminded us it is the evening of Saturday, November 7; tickets will be for sale (no price set yet). “Help Hope Help” is the theme, build it around the ways we help others (homeless, food bank, etc.); songs will be centered around these topics. On September 27, he’ll be here to sing at the 10:30 service “How Great Thou Art.”

6. *Crowdfunding Update*

Paul said we are waiting for IRS to send us a letter to prove we are a nonprofit, and then he can proceed.

7. *Next Steps on Faith Response to Gun Violence* (including Dining Out for Scott Knopfel event) November 10 Memorial Dine Out for Scott. No list of participating restaurants yet. Sarah has a form from Scott’s brother if we know any restaurants who want to join.

Andy suggested we form a small group to discuss how we might address the issue of gun violence as a congregation. Sarah suggested we open to congregation to find out who might be interested in joining it. Robbie, Andy would be interested in joining this group. Bethel suggested there might be members of the Dartball Team.

Sue will make this announcement on Sunday when she gives the highlights from our Council Meeting.

8. *Search Committee Update for Office Administrator*

Andy announcing that we have a job description put together. Because Pros and Cons to this is more of a financial position than what Joyce does, it was decided that applicants be received from outside the congregation only, for reasons of financial confidentiality of our members.

Motion to vote by Robbie to limit applications for Office Administrator to applicants outside of the church. Erik seconds. Motion passes. Andy, Jennifer, Joyce, and Sarah will move forward.

9. *New Member/Council Gathering (September 18)*

Andy will send out reminder email. It will be potluck, so council will bring the food. Probably play some of the usual games (bingo). Families are invited.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Sound System Amplifier Proposal (Pastor Sarah)*

Discovered during VBS that the CD player wasn’t transmitting properly. Ed contacted Chris from Avid Group, and he assessed it needs to be replaced. Sarah’s microphone also isn’t working and needs to be replaced. Kristine thought the proposal looked fine to her. Total of \$1625. Alice looked up report to see where we can take money to divert to the expense. Andy pointed out that Council has the ability to take the \$ we save from Ed’s salary and earmark it for this. In addition, we may consider asking families for use of using various memorial funds. Paul moves we spend money for upgrade. Robbie seconds. Motion passes.

2. *“Miracles” Choir Request*

Andy summed up emails and suggested that this is asking a lot of us financially and in time commitment. Council discussed, but politely declined. Andy will tell Joyce to email them back.

3. *Pastoral Support Options*

It was decided that Pastor Sarah would relay our offer of a part-time pastoral care position to former Eden Intern Josh Gibson, based on 20 hours per month, \$600 per month, starting with a six-month covenant.

Sarah noted that Peace UCC has a solo pastor, but also has some members who are pastors and serve as “pastor associates.” Clint would be willing to do some of this if needed. To be discussed next month.

4. *Establish Budget Committee*

Motion to establish 2016 budget committee. Erik makes motion, Sarah seconds. Suggestions were made for people to join committee. Alice said treasurer and asst. treasurer lead it. We discussed who was on last year and who would be good to ask this year. Alice is the chair, so she’ll ask people. Paul volunteering if we don’t have enough non-council members on it.

Paul brought up concern to have the budget before we know what people are willing to give. Robbie said not enough time, would have to have the Stewardship campaign much earlier. We discussed possibility of moving the annual meeting and budget vote, but it’s too late to do for this year. Our current budget only goes to the end of 2015, so we can’t operate without a budget if we move the meeting later.

5. *Establish Nominating Committee*

Motion to establish a nominating committee proposed by Dave. Seconded by Alice. Committee will be headed up by Randy. Susan will help.

We know we will have two council members to replace. Next month, each Council member will bring two names to propose for council.

6. *Set Annual Meeting Date (Proposal: November 15)*

Sarah proposes Committee Night be first Thursday of month (November 5); Council be the second Thursday (November 12). Paul seconded. Motion passed.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Bethel thanked Susan for the poem on Sunday.
Andy moved we skip OD. Dave seconded.

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Randy)

Randy thanked Sarah and Joyce for putting together space reservation plan.

Permanent stop signs coming to Tamm & Eichelberger (after Labor Day). Eichelberger will be going on a “road diet,” have a bike lane, etc.

All-weather mailbox outside is being considered. Approximately \$400 so small packages could be delivered. More research to be done.

Evangelism and Communication (Erik)

September 13 right after 2nd service, outside if weather permits, in coordination with Youth and Children’s Ministry, we’ll have Ministry Fair. YAC is providing food, games for kids, etc. Each ministry will have a table and a little food to offer. Sign-ups on tables for people who might be interested in joining that committee. Kudos to Gary and Tom for getting the info into the Builder.

Hospitality (Robbie)

No Verbal Report.

Stewardship (Kristine)

Discussed earlier in meeting.

Youth and Children’s Ministries (Bethel)

Worked on curriculum and teachers for the fall.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Offered by Pastor Sarah. Adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer, Asst. Secretary