

Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – October 2015

DATE: October 15, 2015

ATTENDEES: Andy, Randy, Alice, Kristine, Robbie, Sue R, Susan M, Dave, Erik, Paul, Pastor Sarah

ABSENTEES: Jennifer, Bethel

DECISIONS MADE:

1. Proposal approved via e-mail vote to accept the office assistant search committee's recommendation of Jill Stoll as new office assistant.
2. Council retreat will be held Feb. 12-13, 2016 at the Marianist Center.
3. Council approved a motion to approve a standing order committee of Council to annually review the membership of Hope UCC.

NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

1. Liaisons to inform ministry chairs that before making planned expenses to notify the treasurer.
2. Susan M to follow up with new members regarding new member luncheon scheduled for Oct. 25.
3. Council members to hand out business cards from Pastor Sarah and invite people to services.
4. Alice to announce reminder about Schnucks E-Scrip program during church announcements.

GENERAL NOTES:

OPENING

The meeting was opened by Andy at 7:03 PM. Pastor Sarah led with an opening prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 2015 Council Meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alice presented the financial reports from September. White envelope giving was approx. \$17K and expenses were approx. \$23K leaving a deficit of approx. \$5,600. There was discussion about expenses and what to do to reduce. Suggestion was made to have liaisons to have ministry chairs to ask before making planned (budgeted) purchases to make sure cash flow will cover expenses.

Balance Sheet was reviewed. Russell Fund lost \$7K in September.

PASTOR'S REPORT

A written report was distributed by Pastor Sarah. More help is needed for the Epiphany Breakfast ministry. Also, there will be a Dine-Out on Nov. 10 for scholarship in honor of Scott Knopfel. New member luncheon was scheduled for Oct. 25. Susan M volunteered to follow up with the new members to make sure this event was still on. Article discussion from "Entrepegelical Leaders" by Cameron Trimble. Many felt that ideas expressed in the article were already in place at Hope. Erik is going to forward to the Evangelism and Communication ministry.

Sarah ended her report by handing out her business cards and asked that Council members give them to new people and invite them to our church.

OLD BUSINESS

Kitchen Rental

Andy reported that the City of Saint Louis has now officially recognized Hope UCC as a church. As a result, the health inspection has been scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 21st. Chef David to be present.

Crowdfunding and Concert

Paul made a report regarding the Nov. 14, 2015 benefit concert with Vince Martin and Dawn Turlington. The concert will be at 7 pm and include members of Hope UCC and Saint Joan of Arc choirs. Susan M and Bethel were helping with marketing. Concert will be by free will offering. A review of the flyer and program were discussed. Revisions to be made and emailed to Council for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Review Update

Alice presented a report on our current membership. She mentioned that going forward it would be helpful to have a 3-person committee along with Pastor Sarah to review membership numbers annually. A motion was made to approve a standing order committee of Council members to annually review the membership of Hope UCC. The motion was approved.

Approval of 2016 Budget

Alice thanked the members of the budget committee for their work and distributed a handout of the budget proposal. Line items were reviewed. It was suggested that final budgets should be sent out with line items to each ministry. There were some calculation errors on the report. Alice is going to correct and forward to Council via e-mail for a vote.

Approval of 2016 Nominating Slate

Randy presented the nominations to date. He will pursue the invitations and a vote will be done by e-mail.

Annual Meeting Preparation

Moved to November 12th meeting.

Organ Repairs and Warranty Work

Pastor Sarah distributed a proposal for warranty and repair work to be done on the organ before warranty expiration. The total amount projected to be about \$4,500 and done in the spring of 2016. Council approved the repair with an amendment be made in the budget.

OPEN DISCUSSION

In lieu of time, Council postponed open discussion to November meeting.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Building and Property

Written Report received.

Evangelism and Communication

No Verbal Report

Finance and Insurance

No Verbal Report

Hospitality

No Verbal Report

Outreach

Written Report received

Pastoral and Staff Relations

No Verbal Report

Special Events

Paul reported that there will be a soup and salad luncheon after the congregational meeting.

Stewardship

Kristine reported that stewardship materials were sent out.

Worship & Liturgical Arts

Written Report received

Youth and Children

Pastor Sarah and Andy raised the concern over lack of Sunday School Teachers. Follow up was being made with Youth and Children's Ministry.

CLOSING

At 10:05 PM, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and Pastor Sarah closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine, Secretary