

Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – January, 2016

DATE: January 21, 2016

ATTENDEES: Sarah, Bethel, Robbie, Alice, Sue, Erik, Dave, Jennifer, Amy, Susan, Tiffany

ABSENTEES: Andy, Dan

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Pastor Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan moved to approve, Robbie seconded.

Susan is in charge of open discussion tonight but can't give report on Sunday. Robbie will do it.

III. ANNUAL HOPEMARK PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Jeannie, Director of HopeMark, visited and gave us some of the history of HopeMark. We have had no official written contract between Hope and HopeMark in the past, so Alice, Dan, and Jeannie are working on completing one.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

Susan and Amy agreed to be new check signers.

Financial Overview

In addition to usual payroll expenses, annual payment for workman's compensation as well as infrequent organ/piano tuning expenses increased December expenses, even though income was good. \$-3721.54 profit/loss for the month.

Alice needed approval from Council for Vanco Services. We were given money to cover Vanco (online giving), but we've now depleted that gift. Alice & Gina feel it is well worth it to continue the service. Alice made motion to take fee for Vanco out of Operating Fund in the future, Erik seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Pastor Sarah's Health Insurance budget line listed as - \$8,577 but that's because it's now a reimbursement and recorded elsewhere. Overall personnel expenses were \$15,331.53 less than budgeted, due to Ed leaving at end of August. Discussed the "office misc." total of \$1,764.73. Alice and Gina will track this to see if some expenses should go elsewhere. Alice will bring to Gina concerns about Budget vs. Actual for workman's compensation and FICA.

Pastor Sarah shared her excitement that 2015 actual total income was \$323,319.79 while 2016 budgeted total income was \$314,160.00. Woohoo!

Alice will also update the paperwork for Wells Fargo when we elect our officers tonight.

V. PASTOR'S REPORT (Pastor Sarah)

Pastor Sarah shared reminders about Ash Wednesday, Spaghetti Dinner and other upcoming events. Comparing attendance, except for bad weather the past couple of Sundays, the numbers have been up from last year. Christmas Eve 4:00 service was about the same as last year, but 11:00 service was down by 30. Staff suggests moving 11:00 pm service to 10:00 pm. By consensus, Council agreed.

We discussed the article Pastor Sarah sent us: "New Year's Resolutions". Highlights included: crowdfunding (Paul Conner is working on this and requested Stewardship Mission Statement from Dave to see how this might fit in with their ministry. Dave will follow up); simplifying organizational structure; use of social media (Erik suggested we try putting more thought-provoking posts on Facebook or other social media. Send suggestions to administrators, currently Pastor Sarah and Gary.) Conversation on this article will continue at Council retreat on February 12-13th.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Re-establishment of Finance and Insurance Ministry Team: Primary purpose of ministry team is to "regularly review our insurance and investments." The team could meet semi-annually. We need people with experience with finances and investment. Some names suggested: Scott, Dan, Kay, Bryan. Alice will get in touch with them. If anyone else thinks of others to suggest, let Alice know.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Council Officers:

Andy will stay on as President. Alice will stay on as Treasurer. Robbie will stay on as Assistant Treasurer. Amy will be Assistant Secretary. Jennifer will be Secretary. Erik will be Vice-President. Election unanimous.

Ministry Teams: Council members serve as liaisons to ministry teams.

Building & Property – Erik (until we check with Dan)

Evangelism and Communication – Amy (for now)

Finance & Insurance – Alice

Hospitality – Robbie

Outreach – Sue

Pastoral and Staff Relations – Susan

Special Events – Tiffany

Stewardship – Jennifer

Worship and Liturgical Arts – Dave

Youth and Children's Ministries – Bethel

2. Updated e-mail contact list shared by Pastor Sarah: all appear to be correct.

3. Updated HopeMark contract: See earlier notes.

4. Council Retreat 5:00 pm Friday, February 12th – 2:00 pm Saturday, February 13th.

Marianist Retreat Center in Wildwood (Pastor Sarah will e-mail directions).
Three meals: dinner, breakfast, lunch.
Tiffany unable to attend, Erik not spending the night but will be at dinner and lunch.
\$65 per person (\$35 payable to the church. Church will cover the other \$30 per person.
Alice will use Memorial Fund 3.300)

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Susan)

Like David Bowie's last album was a love letter to the world, what would our love letter be upon our death?

IX. MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Erik)

They continue to have discussions about heating issues in Fellowship Hall, finalizing plans soon. Bethel added that there is a plan for two heaters for now (more later), each heater will cost \$1430, plus expenses for panel, conduit, hooking heaters to panel, \$4160 is estimate (Don would be donating labor). This doesn't need Council approval since it's under \$5000. Ethan also purchased snow blower (\$700) and was able to use on Wednesday prior to funeral service.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

They are working on t-shirts, bumper stickers, field trip to a mega church to see what draws people to that setting (Pastor Sarah recommends going to the Gathering since it grows out of a mainline denomination--Methodist)

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

NVR (No Verbal Report – see written minutes)

Hospitality (Robbie)

No Verbal Report

Outreach (Sue)

No Verbal Report

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Jennifer)

No Verbal Report

Special Events (Tiffany)

No Verbal Report

Stewardship (Dave)

They met once and will be setting up another organizational meeting.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)

No Verbal Report

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)

They worked on plans to support confirmands on Palm Sunday, and will change Sunday School schedule for spring quarter so that 3-5 year old class and kindergarten-2nd grade class will meet during 10:30 worship, with older classes remaining at 9:15.

X. CLOSING PRAYER (Sue)

Meeting adjourned 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer, Secretary