

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

DATE: February 18, 2016

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

ABSENTEES:

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Pastor Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave motioned, Erik seconded.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

Alice addressed a concern from last time: the timing of when the FICA payment was due was changed because of the changes in payroll this past year (Ed, Michelle, Jill) and they should right themselves eventually.

Raises for staff didn't get processed in January payroll. Gina will correct in February. Numbers on financial overview are true numbers that will match what is actually there once Gina does this.

White envelope giving in January was good, though may in part be attributed to some people paying total 2016 contributions.

Lump sum was taken from Endowment Fund earnings, per guidelines, and added to the Operating Fund, like it should be for January. We are still down in the Donut Fund.

Alice needs the President and Vice President signatures to make sure she can be made the authorized person on the credit card and remove Kristine's name from it.

Alice requested that we black out our financial information when we send a copy of our minutes to the credit card company as requested to make this change. Council agreed.

Alice set the date to have new signers for checks as Saturday, February 27 at 9:30 at Bank of America between the library and Target on Hampton Avenue.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Pastor Sarah)

Sarah asked us all to sign a thank-you note for Don's donated work on getting heat on in the Fellowship Hall in time for the Spaghetti Dinner.

She passed around a flier about Kenyon College Chamber Singers' Concert in case anyone can post at work, etc.

Sarah announced the Open & Affirming Convocation coming up Saturday, February 27 at Parkway UCC; let Judy know of interest. She answered some questions about it.

Attendance numbers appear to be up over last year, excluding our snow day this past Sunday.

Council Meeting on May 19 has a conflict so we will reschedule to Wednesday, May 18.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Sharemyspace.com

Sarah filled new members in on this. She had asked another church who is a part of this program if they had a good experience with this or not. They had good experiences with the website and the folks that came in, but didn't drum up a lot of extra business. Council decided to pursue this opportunity further. It would be a source of income and community outreach. Andy suggested getting feedback from B&P after we get draft together for advertising. Robbie will follow up with the website and look into it.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Funding for Montreat Conference for Jim

Sarah explained the purpose of this conference. Alice explained that money had been allocated for this last year, but Jim didn't end up going, so those funds are available. The total cost is \$1200, which does not include travel, as Jim generously has never asked for reimbursement for this portion. Jim requested, if possible, reimbursement for at least half of the conference cost in order to be able to attend. Alice made motion we use the money from last year and take an additional \$400 from the Memorial Fund (3.300). Dave seconded.

Recruit Welcoming Host for University of TN Students

They will arrive Sunday afternoon, March 13. Jennifer volunteered to meet them.

Prayer Vessel

Bethel brought a vessel for us to contribute prayers to during the meeting and we'll all pray for them.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Robbie)

We remembered people who made a special impact on us here at Hope.

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Erik/Dan)

Building and Property Ministry continues to look for ways to promote Capital Improvement Fund. They are working on a flier about things they've accomplished over the years and what the needs are. They requested that the TN students do a cursory cleaning of the sanctuary and the ministry team would provide rags, etc. Council approved making the necessary repairs to stop the leak in the sanctuary balcony.

Bethel added that bulbs in the chapel ceiling lights have been changed and the lenses have been cleaned to make it brighter for meetings. Higher watt bulbs were also added to the lamps in the chapel narthex. Longer term solution is to install a dimmer switch for the ceiling lights. Chapel Renovation team will take these changes into account as they continue their work.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

The ministry team is trying to come up with clever ways to entice people to read the Builder. Andy shared idea of "Hope Helps its Neighbors" (like "Workshop" idea from Worship Ministry), with short Sunday service, then go out to community to do service projects (rake leaves, paint railings). Sarah mentioned that the reverse process is used at her mother's church, with members working in neighborhood, and then returning to church for short service and lunch together. Ministry team will discuss further.

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

Bryan agreed to be on team, Kay agreed to continue. Dan Emerson volunteered to join. Mike McBride, our Wells Fargo Investments advisor, will come to the March Council Meeting to update us on the status of the account.

Hospitality (Robbie)

NVR (No Verbal Report)

Outreach (Sue)

NVR

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)

NVR

Special Events (Tiffany)

Spaghetti Dinner was a success.

Stewardship (Jennifer)

The team is reading lots of material on stewardship ideas and working on a mission statement.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)

Dave reported that it was a pun-filled meeting! The team is working on both visual and dramatic arts during services.

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)

Bethel reported that the ministry team is planning for Pretzel Sunday, Confirmation and Easter.

Other Business:

Bethel asked how often Sarah would like to update us on how the change to one pastor is going. Sarah responded that it appears to be going well and that she's appreciative of the congregation's support. She particularly appreciates the Visitation Ministry team, as regular visits to homebound members can be a time challenge on very busy weeks, particularly as Josh has needed to cut back on his hours. However, having Josh on staff for times when Sarah is out of town is a great partnership with him. With an active church, there have been occasions when she would like to be present at meetings happening simultaneously, which before would have been split between the pastors, but this is manageable with additional communication with ministry team chairs and coordinators of other groups.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

We said the Lord's Prayer together, praying over the submissions to the vessel.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer, Secretary