

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

DATE: March 17, 2016

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

ABSENTEES: Susan, Andy, Dan

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Sarah)

Sarah led us in prayer.

II. Investment Overview

Kay joined us as part of Finance & Insurance Ministry. Mike from Wells Fargo Investments came to speak to us about our investments. He explained to us that we have a diversified portfolio because it is so hard to predict high-yielding investments from year to year. He also walked us through past year results and market values so we could see the changes.

Kay asked what we envision the Finance Ministry doing. Alice explained that she is hoping they can oversee this information, monitor it on a more regular basis, also making sure insurance coverage is adequate and up to date.

Robbie added that she would want to keep an eye on whether or not the rate we pay for management of our investments is worthwhile.

Kay added importance to know month to month how our church is doing. Sarah said her vision of this ministry is that, for now, they are monitoring investments and insurance, not necessarily the overall financial status of the church, which is more of Council's responsibility. However, F&I could explore other avenues of generating revenue, promoting bequests, etc.

Topic was also broached of adding announcements to the Builder regarding our overall financial status.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave motioned to approve. Tiffany seconded.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

Expenses far exceeded income for February (by over \$7,000). More positive changes in terms of the market, so Operating Fund as of February was \$28,197.31 and our Checking Account balance was \$16,102.13. Alice recommended selling the Apple Stock that we received on Monday and use the money in our Operating Fund since we have an expense coming later this year for organ repair. B&P's concerns are mostly on big things (boiler, dishwasher, etc.) and are working on a Capital Campaign to help with these things. More to come on this. Alice made motion to sell the Apple Stock and move the funds from the sale into the General Operating

Fund. Sue seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Operating Fund balance is incorrect on Balance Sheet because the money spent from Children's Music should have not been taken from there.

We overspent the Sound System Fund by \$90. Motion to take from the Operating Fund to cover.

Outreach is also showing negative because of mismatch with distribution.

No major expenses, just probably due to giving being down.

V. PASTOR'S REPORT (Sarah)

7 Confirmands being confirmed on Sunday April 20th along with it being Palm Sunday. We're in good shape for the Vigil with four slots still available. Could use a few more people to help with serving the Maundy Thursday Dinner. Fewer signed up so far for it than last year.

Communion on Easter, not on April 3rd.

Shift in Sunday School schedules for younger children to during worship.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. *Sharemyspace.com Update* (Robbie)

Robbie corresponded with the contact person there. Free promo still available, as well as free listing for the year, free access to booking and payment features, and free help with profile creation. We just need to set it all up or have them create it with the information we provide. We can send documents, forms, photos, details.

Questions: what does it cost after the trial period? Can we turn down groups/have final say in approval of the rental?

We would need to decide how much to charge, which spaces we would make available, what dates the spaces would be available, etc. Question arose as to whether or not this might end up being a lot of work for someone.

Robbie asked if we could reserve the sanctuary for more artistic events like concerts. Erik mentioned concern about groups that might be too political or controversial.

Robbie will go back with our questions and report next month.

Amy asked about an exercise group that is requesting a space such as Fellowship Hall from 7:45 am – 9:15 am M-F during winter months and only in summer during inclement weather. Their current facility is for sale and will be closing. They have between 8 and 14 people. They would also need storage for weights. Erik asked her to send us an email about the specifics, after Amy hears back from Jeanne.

Alice said Jeanne is requesting a calendar of events because she has events for the daycare in Fellowship Hall and conflicts with the kitchen. Calendar is becoming more important.

Robbie suggested Google Calendar and elaborated on the benefits of it. Sarah suggested Robbie get with Jill & Joyce about it.

2. *Council Retreat Follow-Up (Sarah)*

Concrete items from it included “Ten Reasons to Go to Church,” which is being put in the weekly email and the Builder.

Evangelism team will explore an outside person to meet with them.

We will look more at spiritual gifts inventory, probably after Easter.

3. *Communion Serving (Bethel)*

Bethel suggested we try to move together as we serve in the pews, and be a little more aware of keeping in line with each other. We came to the decision to have one of the ushers take the gluten-free wafers on a separate plate down the center aisle. Bethel is working on marking the pews to tell where we should stop/start halfway down.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Hampton Chippewa Business Association Request (Sarah)*

She shared a letter we received from this organization. It offers membership at an annual fee of \$50 to be part of the association. There is no record of us doing this in the past. It sounds like it is more geared toward businesses, not necessarily for churches. We decided against it.

2. Alice believes she is the liaison to HopeMark and there are some issues with the playground as well as a roof leak in a closet where they keep some supplies. Erik suggested she bring those to Ron for Building and Property review.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Tiffany)

IX. MINISTRY TEAMS

Building and Property (Erik/Dan)

April 23rd Spring Clean-Up Day. Bethel pointed out broken pieces of glass in bell tower.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

NVR (No verbal report)

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

NVR

Hospitality (Robbie)

NVR

Outreach (Sue)
NVR

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)
NVR

Special Events (Tiffany)
NVR

Stewardship (Jennifer)
We believe we've made a mission statement. We are also working on having someone come in to talk to our parishioners to give them practical advice on financial planning that includes the church.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)
NVR

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)
The ministry team is trying a new schedule for Sunday School with younger classes held during the 10:30 service rather than 9:15. Older classes will remain at 9:15. Ministry team also getting ready for processional on Palm Sunday and Confirmation.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Sarah led us, including some personal prayers from council members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer, Secretary