

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

DATE: April 21, 2016

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

ABSENTEES:

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Erik moved, Dave seconded. Minutes approved.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

Alice says we're receiving two gifts from two deceased members. We don't know the exact amount, but estimates were \$19,000 for one. Suggestion was to put half in the Endowment Fund and other half into Capital Improvements Fund or specific allocation. Decision will be made once funds received.

Income of \$36,735.20 for month of March, included a stock gift (white envelope – one time a year – \$15,000 gift) Expenses \$18,364.80.

Balance Sheet: by the next meeting, Souper Bowl money will be removed and put in Isiah 58 fund. Outreach Fund showing negative because of changes related to last year's gifts, will be updated. Moving of sound system money was approved; it will be corrected on Balance Sheet before next meeting. Rough week because Church Windows wasn't working. Not able to issue checks, etc. Thank God for Lonny!! Church Windows was functioning by end of week, with his assistance.

Gina and Alice will begin cleaning up the template for the budget so it will be more streamlined when they go to put together the budget for 2017.

Bethel asked about Children's Mission on the Balance Sheet. Sarah suggested checking with Gina. Alice will and get back to us.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Sarah)

This Sunday, focusing on Earth Day. Kids doing special clean-up in the park, passing out seeds. Three people coming for the New Member Class.

Prayer Shawl Ministry started. Next meeting is this Sunday at Kirkwood. We have some homebound members interested, so glad they are able to connect with us.

Sarah will be gone to a Pastors' Conference next week, and will report on it at next meeting. Clint will be on call. Audrey will be preaching.

Attendance has been low since Easter, but about normal compared to last year.

Spiritual Gifts Inventories – Following up from our Council Retreat, doing an assessment of our gifts so that we can best channel those gifts to do the most good. Feedback: In doing two online ones at Sarah's request, overall consensus is that these two were not the ones we want to use with wider congregation. Sarah passed out another inventory compiled by Pastor Carol Shanks, to be completed by council members by next meeting.

Another option is a curriculum (three-session) developed by the UCC. Explore scripture, discipleship, etc., explore together and some individual work.

Bethel asked if this is included in new member classes. Sarah explained she has a one-class format, with PowerPoint presentation on theology, history and organization of UCC denomination and Hope UCC, as well as what membership means here at Hope. They get a packet to take home with list of ministries, etc.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. *Sharemyspace.com Update (Robbie)*

Update to come next meeting.

2. *Exercise Class Building Use (Amy)*

Amy emailed us with general information. The gym currently being used will not be available after a certain date, so she's looking to hold her exercise class here at Hope MWF 7:45 – 9:15 am Nov – March weekly, Apr – Oct as needed on rainy days. Class leader is insured and will pay a monthly fee to us. She'll need a small area to store weights and mats. Varies between 8 and 16 people in attendance. Jeannie Ryan said it wouldn't conflict with the preschool's use of Fellowship Hall. We need a contract between us and the trainer, with the option to cancel if she finds another gym to use. Proposals of \$110 a month or \$10 an hour to charge (either still cuts her current costs in half). Amy will go back to her with our suggestions.

A bigger issue is the need to set up appropriate fees for rental for the building beyond weddings, as these requests have increased in the last couple of years. For not-for-profit organizations we don't charge. Robbie will draft some kind of fee schedule in the coming weeks for further council discussion. Sarah will talk to other pastors to see what other churches do.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Sunday Attendance-Improving Ideas (Sarah)*

Joyce has come up with some ideas. 5th Sunday = 5% given to a mission we support and celebrate it that day. Birthday Sunday once a month; have cake instead of donuts.

Anniversary Sunday a couple times a year; have cake. More guest speakers. We all thank Joyce.

2. *Still-Speaking Ensemble Opportunity (Sarah)*
Email from music director at Washington Park UCC in Colorado. The ensemble will be coming through the first week in July. Jazz, gospel, R&B. Saturday night concert. Decided not a good weekend to host, as it is Fourth of July holiday. Sarah will get back to the leader about other possible dates.
3. *Eagle Board Uses Space at Church to Meet*
Changing leadership at the end of this year. Andy will not be chairman after this year, but they would still like to meet here if that's possible. No objections to this.
4. We voted at Annual Meeting to include student pastor in our annual budget. Sarah let Eden know and they were very pleased. \$470/month for September to May.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Sue)

Memories of our grandparents.

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Erik/Dan)

They are focusing on promotion of Capital Improvements Fund, and request doing a campaign in concert with the Stewardship Campaign. Concerns arose as to making sure this was an additional gift by members, and not resulting in a decrease in their annual pledges. Erik asked Dave (Stewardship liaison) to speak to Ron (chair of B&P) further. Some B&P members concerned they are not receiving communication in timely way. Ethan reported that the tower is not lit. He could do it for \$500 himself. Workday this Saturday, 9 – Noon. Everyone is welcome. Leak in sanctuary over the soundboard has been repaired.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

NVR

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

They are meeting on May 15th. Comparing our investments with Wells Fargo to other places – getting a broader picture.

Hospitality (Robbie)

NVR

Outreach (Sue)

NVR

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)

Met with Sarah.

Special Events (Tiffany)

Talent Show in the works. October 8th.

Stewardship (Jennifer)

Planning Stewardship Sunday on Sept 11th. Dave added: so we can present to Budget Committee what we have from the Stewardship Campaign. This might help craft the budget better. We realize it means having the campaign over the summer which is when attendance is low, but everyone should be back from vacations, etc. in August.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)

ONA Renewal Sunday scheduled for June 12th, before PrideFest (the final weekend in June).

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)

Talk about doing something in the summer, once a month, for summer Sunday School. Making it more outreach, mission-oriented.

Chapel Renovation Team (Erik, Sarah)

The next step is to bring the congregation into the plans. Dates are not set yet. Process has been slower than expected, but moving forward. Sr. Joyelle will lead the congregational session and guide everyone through the concepts they've been discussing. Next team meeting is May 22.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER (Sarah)

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer, Secretary