

# Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – May, 2016

**DATE:** May 18, 2016

**ATTENDEES:** Erik, Alice, Sue, Susan, Robbie, Jennifer, Sarah, Amy, Andy

**ABSENTEES:** Bethel, David, Dan, Tiffany

## **GENERAL NOTES:**

### **I. OPENING PRAYER** (Sarah)

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sarah moved, Erik seconded. Minutes approved.

### **III. FINANCIAL REPORT** (Alice)

Alice & Gina investigated the line-item issues raised at last month's meeting and everything on paper should now be correct.

For April, White Envelope income was \$20,084.12, while total expenses were \$18,198.81, leaving us with an income surplus of \$1,885.31. This included insurance refunds.

On Balance Sheet, Outreach is still listed with a negative balance because we are still catching up on 2015, but that will balance soon.

Alice shared a copy of Kirkwood's newsletter that shows monthly and YTD income/expenses. In addition, it highlights events and ministries made possible by financial support during the month. We will adapt this process for our own use, in the monthly Builder as well as once a month in bulletin wrap-around sheet.

Alice went to Commerce to see about changing our accounts from Bank of America to Commerce, but they require \$25,000 maintenance with only 300 transactions. Recommended we look into Lindell Bank (from a couple of sources).

Sue added to Alice's report asking Council members to contribute to the Donut Fund.

### **IV. PASTOR'S REPORT** (Sarah)

Josh will be covering for Sarah for two Sundays. As he is not yet ordained, we are moving Communion to the 12th of June. Attendance is down for this month compared to last year.

#### *Spiritual Gifts Inventories Update*

We need to do this when we have more members present. Tabled until June.

#### *National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath*

The UCC put out information on this, for the second Sunday in December. This is something

Sarah and the pastors at Gethsemane Lutheran and St. Mark's Episcopal will be discussing more.

*Additional Ecumenical Effort (with Gethsemane and St. Mark's)*

This summer we are jointly reading the book "Healing the Heart of Democracy" by Parker Palmer. Participants are invited to two discussions over the summer: July 7 and August 21st.

*Report on CREDO Conference*

The conference was both personally and professionally rewarding for Sarah. One area of learning was in ways to be a more spiritual leader and thus focus on the spiritual vitality of the church. Discussion with other pastors reflected on decline of church membership and attendance (9 out of 10 UCC churches are declining in these areas), and the need to concentrate on spiritual growth and faithful discipleship. Different suggestions and ideas came from it, some of which Pastor Sarah will be further exploring in worship and other settings.

*2016 Eden Student Pastor*

Andy W. will begin with us this fall, starting after Labor Day. He will be a second-level student.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

*Exercise Class Update (Amy)*

Dan emailed Amy our contract for HopeMark, but that is more involved than the one he would use for this request. Amy will contact him to finalize. Storage needed would be about 5' x 5' area. Erik mentioned they discussed storage at Building and Property meeting, and he will do an audit of the storage use at church.

Sarah consulted with other churches about their building use fees and policies. One responded that they are concerned about charging too much and jeopardizing their non-profit status. They also charge on a case-by-case basis. We will continue to gather information from other churches.

Erik moved to set rate at \$10 a class for the summer months of June through October for rainy day purpose use pursuant to a contract. Robbie seconded.

Amy will get a copy of the instructor's insurance to us. Alice will double-check on liabilities and guidelines.

*Stewardship Campaign Proposal*

Paul C. sent Andy and Sarah an email saying they've decided on a theme of Joy of Giving, with Stewardship Sunday on September 11th. Council approved by consensus.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

*Youth Ideas for "Greening" the Church*

Katie M. sent an email that the 7-12th grade class has been studying the topic of caring for the earth. They conducted a mock sustainability audit for our church. They made some suggestions: print church bulletins on recycled paper, reusable dishes with the youth volunteering to clean the dishes, making toilets more efficient in the building. Building and Property will be informed about the toilet ideas, Jill & Joyce will check into the recycled paper, and Robbie will contact Hospitality Ministry regarding coffee cups. The Council is very grateful for their efforts!

*Red Cross Emergency Shelter*

Erik reported that Randy is trying to work with the Red Cross to make the church an emergency shelter.

**VII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Shared ideas we've heard other churches doing to benefit those in need. Discussed different programs.

**VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS**

*Building and Property (Erik /Dan)*

Sept 10th will be a work day, with Sept 17th as the back-up.

Ministry Team requests that the money we receive for rent from the chef go into the Capital Improvement Fund. Erik moved that we use rental money from Chef David to go into Capital Improvement Fund. Seconded by Sue. Motion passed.

*Evangelism and Communication (Amy)*

The team is working on using sign-up sheets on clipboards, to walk around on Sundays to personally ask people to sign-up, along with little sheets they can hand them as a reminder for what they volunteered.

The team is researching Hope T-shirts with new emblem and "Be the Church" on the back. They will sell for about \$15 or \$16. They are also getting prices on bumper stickers.

*Finance and Insurance (Alice)*

They met! The team is researching financial advisor options and reporting back to each other in August.

*Hospitality (Robbie)*

NVR

*Outreach (Sue)*

The team requests that Hope UCC become a sustaining member of Interfaith Partnership (among their programs, they have one called Sprouts of Peace involving Jewish, Muslim, and Christian children; Habitat for Humanity, etc.). They do a lot in the community to promote interfaith relationships. Robbie made motion to submit \$125 membership to join Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis, Erik seconded. Motion passed.

*Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)*

NVR

*Special Events (Tiffany)*

NVR

*Stewardship (Jennifer)*

New campaign and date (see above)

*Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)*

Sarah mentioned they need more people. Robbie said she would be interested in joining in the fall.

*Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)*

They are meeting tomorrow night.

*Chapel Renovation Team (Erik, Sarah)*

NVR

## **IX. CLOSING PRAYER**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer, Secretary