

Hope United Church of Christ

Council Meeting Minutes – June, 2016

DATE: June 16, 2016

ATTENDEES: Pastor Sarah, Andy K, Erik H, Alice G, Susan M, Sue R, Robbie VN, Dave K, Jennifer T, Bethel H, Amy K, Dan E

ABSENTEES: Tiffany B

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Pastor Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Erik moved. Minutes approved.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice G)

Alice asked for feedback about whether it was okay for the treasurer's office to also house the church archives. Question had to do with accessibility to giving information; how often the office would be accessed (answer to this was "rarely"). Carol SW is going through archive information in the old storage area and moving it to the treasurer's office. The proposal was made to have a locked file cabinet for the financial information, and otherwise shared space is fine.

Alice went to Lindell Bank to check into their small business accounts and we qualify for what they offer. The reason we are looking to change from Bank of America has mostly to do with the customer service and challenges we have faced in using BoA. Suggestion was to table it until it is time to transfer officers and change signatures on the account so that we can do this all at once.

Alice reduced our phone bill by a significant amount by talking with the phone company and securing a new rate.

We've received our second large gift bequest from the Lowe family's estate. Sue proposed \$20,000 from the Lowe family gift, Amy seconded, go into Capital Improvement. Erik moved to put the remaining amount (\$15,000) in the "Lowe Memorial Fund" so that it would remain separate from the General Fund. Dan seconded. Motion passed. Erik will let B&P know of this gift to the Capital Improvement Fund. Discussion on proposals for use of remaining funds will be tabled until next month.

Gina's computer continues to malfunction, and hinder creating reports. Alice proposed Sarah and Gina get new laptops. Both are over 7 years old. Council agreed, and Alice will contact Bryan E and Jennifer C about researching options.

Financial Overview: income was \$20,973.87 for May, expenses were \$17,502.86. Remaining balance of Operating Fund was \$54,943.97. Question asked about the Conference Call Fund, as it is not currently being used. After brief conversation, it was decided we should leave it there in case of future use.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Pastor Sarah)

Joyce is on vacation next week; Jill is covering by working mornings only next week. UCC is offering several webinars regarding conversations about race. Sarah is inviting folks to come watch some together or they can watch on their own.

First "Birthday Sunday" is June 26th, with cake for all instead of donuts.
Summer Sunday School (all ages) is mission-oriented, one Sunday a month.
Three-Church/ One Book summer reading will have first gathering at St. Mark's on July 7th.

Sarah taking family vacation July 8-15th, so Martha R will be preaching July 10th and on call for pastoral emergencies. Josh G. is out of town all month with army duties.

New Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting regularly each month, and Lunch Bunch will continue, as attendance has been good.

Spiritual Gifts Inventories update: members brought their results. Many felt it was easier to answer than others we had done. Bethel expressed concern that she found the language of some of the questions to be misleading, particularly the Teaching category. Sarah asked Bethel to mark up the ones to be more user friendly for Hope.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Building Use Guidelines Update

Pastor Sarah and Robbie VN meeting next week to review guidelines of other churches.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Communion Servers

Bethel looking for members to serve communion on July 3rd.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Amy K led. We discussed memories of going to amusement parks.

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Erik H/Dan E)

Considering replacing toilets with low-volume, dual-flushed toilets.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy K)

No Verbal Report

Finance and Insurance (Alice G)

Alice met with representative from Stifel, who suggested that she should meet with our current financial advisor (Mike) before considering changing. Alice will contact Mike after she returns from vacation. Dan spoke to his advisor, who suggested that depending on what our goals were, there might not be any real change. Determination of what level of risk we feel appropriate is needed.

Hospitality (Robbie VN)

Robbie talked to Carol Z about proposal from the youth about not using disposable cups at Fellowship Time and their willingness to help clean up. Carol in favor. Sarah will send an email to Katie M and follow up.

Outreach (Sue R)

Blanket Sunday this Sunday.

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan M)

No Verbal Report

Special Events (Tiffany B)

No Verbal Report

Stewardship (Jennifer T)

This Sunday will be the kick-off for our Stewardship Campaign, which will wrap up Sunday, September 11th. The ministry team seeks Council's guidance in determining whether or not to set a specific goal. Sue asked if our goal should be number of pledges, amount of pledge, number of new pledges, etc. Jennifer will take these questions back to Stewardship Ministry team for further discussion. Jennifer also asked Council members to answer email from Dave about "How is Hope a Joyful Place?" since our theme is the Joy of Giving. Erik recommended our liaisons take this question to each ministry team as well.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave K)

No Verbal Report

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel H)

No Verbal Report

Chapel Renovation Team (Erik H/Pastor Sarah)

Sarah will bring potential dates for a congregational gathering to their July meeting. September is the suggestion.

Additional: Camp promotion. Susan M remarked what a great time she had at Family Camp at Camp MoVal and wanted more people to know about it and its benefits. Sarah asked Bethel to bring that back to YAC for additional promotion next spring.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Prayers were added to the vessel on the table, as Pastor Sarah led us in prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer T, Secretary