

**Hope United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes – September, 2016**

DATE: September 15, 2016

ATTENDEES: Tiffany, Alice, Erik, Jennifer, Dave, Robbie, Pastor Sarah, Amy, Andy, Bethel, Dan, Susan, Student Pastor Andy W.

ABSENTEES: Sue

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER

Led by Pastor Sarah.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Worship & Liturgical Arts met, but didn't have anything to report – change to NVR. Dave motioned to approve, Alice seconded. Motion passed.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

Expenses were higher because of purchasing the copier last month. That's why the over/under amount is a negative. Bookkeeping explanation for our numbers being "off" may be due to a combination of the market change and the bequest that was moved into appropriate funds. With Andy's finance background, it was recommended that he meet with Gina to try to reconcile the issues.

Outreach is negative because we paid the organizations and we are waiting for contributions to come in.

Sarah talked to Carol Brueggenjohann about transferring the Hugo B. Memorial Fund balance of \$840 to the fund to renovate/redecorate the parlor.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Pastor Sarah)

We welcomed our student pastor Andy W. This Sunday we'll have Outreach Sunday with Clint M. giving the sermon plus musical guests. The Fall Association Meeting is a week from Saturday. Carolyn M. will attend. Coming up, we have a baptism and Art in the Park. Joyce asked Sarah to pass along that ministry annual reports are due Monday, September 26th. Andy's first Sunday preaching will be Oct 9. World Communion Sunday is Oct 2. Attendance for last month was comparable to last year.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Building Use Guidelines Update (Robbie)

Robbie was not ready to report so this was tabled for next month.

Proposals for Remaining Lowe Estate Gift (\$5,000)

- a. Habitat for Humanity
- b. Care packages for college students
- c. Parlor renovation

Some discussion was made about the possibility of other memorial funds being used for the parlor renovation. Because of issues with the need for new computers, this topic was tabled until New Business was discussed. When we returned to it, the decision was made to table it for further discussion next month.

Update from Nominating Committee (Erik)

Four members on Council are reaching the end of their terms. Dave K. will be leaving. Jennifer T. and Erik H. will be staying. Susan M. was finishing another term in place and still needs to consider whether she will stay on or not. Erik is still waiting to hear from some ministries regarding their membership. There was some discussion about possible candidates for Council members.

Update from Budget Committee (Alice)

They will meet on September 28th.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Computer Service Contract (Pastor Sarah)

Sarah gave out a handout that Jill prepared. Questions kept coming from the idea of replacing computers – what types, what operating systems, who trains, etc. Since we no longer have an in-house person to help with adjustments, the office staff was visited by “The Miller Group” which has contracts with 12 UCC churches in the area. Suggestions made by this company involved more elements to consider than previously thought. It was concluded that the original plan to buy two laptop computers and have the staff figure things out on their own was not the best plan. Jill will check The Miller Group references as well as check with the Better Business Bureau to help decide if we should go with this company or not. Dan E. can run individual names and have his “guy” look at the summary and bid. Robbie will also consult with her service provider. General consensus was that these numbers seemed reasonable and that this is a priority; finance records and other information of our parishioners have to be protected. Right now we are vulnerable. A decision will be tabled until next month, pending some further research.

Discussion to Change Council Meetings to another Night

There was some discussion about whether to change Council Meetings from the third Thursday of the month to another night. No decision was made.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Dan)

What marks the change into fall for each of us?

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Erik/Dan)

The roof now leaks in the balcony. The ministry team is going to look at the cost of a new roof with different material from the slate we now have. There were concerns expressed about HopeMark toys being left out – not necessarily by HopeMark.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

There will be a booth at Art in the Park again this year. The ministry would like to start passing around clipboards, handing them to people personally when asking them to volunteer. They will also give out reminder slips to people so they know about the event for which they signed up. They are looking for a banner that seems to have been misplaced.

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

They will meet on September 25th.

Hospitality (Robbie)

No Verbal Report

Outreach (Sue)

No Verbal Report

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)

They met with Katie M. Next month they will meet with Student Pastor Andy.

Special Events (Tiffany)

The talent show is coming up on October 8th.

Stewardship (Jennifer)

59 pledge cards totaling \$161,600 have come in so far. Thank you notes will be sent by members of the ministry.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)

They are planning a Labyrinth Walk, World Communion Sunday and discussing potential new members for the ministry team.

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)

An email went out to council regarding hiring of Bridget K for childcare. This was approved via email. \$561 was raised at the Youth Car Wash.

Chapel Renovation Team (Erik, Pastor Sarah)

There will be a congregational meeting Oct 23. The ministry team is meeting on the 29th to do final preparations for this meeting. They encourage everyone to come. Sr. Joyelle will be facilitating that day.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Led by Pastor Sarah. Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer T, Secretary