

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

DATE: November 10, 2016

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

ABSENTEES: Alice

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Pastor Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Andy)

Erik moved, Tiffany seconded. Minutes approved.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Robbie)

White envelope giving was up for the month because of gift made to cover organ repairs and a gift of \$2,500 for the boiler. In reference to last month's questions about clarity of monthly balance sheet, Andy has done some preliminary investigating, but still has more to look over. Expenses were typical. Robbie held budget review meeting Sunday to answer budget questions. There was a request for the Balance Sheet to be available to the congregation. Robbie will make it available to anyone who requests.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Pastor Sarah)

In additional to her monthly written report, Sarah reported that Andy W.'s adult Sunday School class started well. We celebrate that there have been several baptisms this fall, and also that a new member joining Sunday will be set soon, with four members joining. Sarah noted that the 2nd annual Scott Knopf Dine Out Day will be on November 15th. Harvest Home Sunday on November 20th. Sarah will take Wednesday, November 23rd as a vacation day but is in town. Organ repairmen were here from England and made repairs to the organ. Sarah reported on her preliminary plans for her upcoming sabbatical in summer 2017 (Sarah was eligible for it this past summer, but decided not to take it then.) Josh Gibson will be taking over for this time.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Final Checklist (Sarah)

Passing out packets – Sue, Robbie, Dan. Microphone – Andy W. Written ballots ready to go in case we need them for anything.

Building Use Update (Robbie)

Robbie made edits to the forms she presented at last meeting. She'll have the final versions next month.

HopeMark Yoga Class Update (Robbie/Dan)

Classes would be before and after school, in addition the teacher will hold one free class a month during the school day to be included in their curriculum. We are waiting on proof of insurance from the instructor.

Remaining Lowe Estate Funds (Sarah)

Sarah will check with Gina about what is left from these funds and then we will move forward with making decisions.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Communion Serving Review (Bethel)

Bethel led us in a discussion reviewing intinction serving procedures. In particular, we need to make sure we can reach out to those in the pews who can't come forward. In addition to what is noted in bulletin, Sarah will also announce that persons preferring to remain in their seat are invited to raise their hand to indicate this. We decided that one Council member, with an extra set of elements, will remain in back of sanctuary to respond to these requests.

University of Iowa Students Week of Service

Via email, Council members voted to allow students from the University of Iowa to stay at Hope church during their week of service to St. Louis in March 2017.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Andy)

In response to much negativity in the news this past week, we discussed the good things we are looking forward to in the coming year.

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Erik /Dan)

Erik reported that a work day Dec 4th right after service – leaf pickup. The team discussed the possibility of forming a garden club here to focus on landscaping, particularly seasonal. They would like us to look at a programmable sign rather than multiple signs we have placed on the lawn. It was mentioned that this had been researched in the past, and the cost was prohibitive. Erik reported that the team discussed disability inaccessibility, so looking into a portable ramp for the steps in hallway. Lamont discovered smashed pumpkins against our wall, suggested fake cameras to deter vandalism and other crime. “No Trespassing” sign is still in the works.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

No Verbal Report

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

Since Alice is out of town, Dan explained that they met with the insurance people who went through line-by-line. He said our coverage is very good.

Hospitality (Robbie)

No Verbal Report

Outreach (Sue)

No Verbal Report, but directed us to the Builder for all the giving opportunities for the Advent Season.

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)

Met with Andy W.

Special Events (Tiffany)

No Verbal Report. Erik asked if they would consider another Trivia night.

Stewardship (Jennifer)

Jennifer shared a possible crowd-funding page to raise money for future need for a boiler. There was discussion around the wording of the page, with concern that readers outside the church might think we are providing warmth for those in need, like a homeless shelter, and therefore a bit misleading. Suggestion was made to consider the phrase "...so our church can host its vibrant ministries" or something similar.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)

No Verbal Report

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)

No Verbal Report

Chapel Renovation Team (Erik/Pastor Sarah)

The team met on November 2nd to review the congregational gathering on October 23rd, and begin planning our other gathering on January 8th. As this will primarily focus on small group brainstorm, with a team facilitator at each table, there will be a maximum of 24 spots available. Therefore, signing up in advance is required. A second meeting can be planned if more than 24 are interested in attending.

Other item: in the past we've invited new council members to our December meeting (December 15th). We will do that again this year. Everyone bring cookies.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

We added prayers to the vessel on the table. Sarah led us in prayer and we concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer, Secretary