

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

**DATE:** December 15, 2016

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

**ABSENTEES:** Alice

**GENERAL NOTES:**

**I. OPENING PRAYER** (Sarah)

**II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (Andy K.)  
Erik moved; Dave seconded. Minutes approved.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT** (Robbie)

Robbie gave the report in Alice's absence. White envelope income for November was \$21,855.50, including gifts to Capital Improvement Fund and General Fund.

Money for Youth Mission Trip is listed under Youth Fellowship.

The Art Dippel Memorial Fund has been redistributed by permission of the family so it's no longer showing under the Memorial Fund balances.

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

Pastor Sarah highlighted on her written report that this year's second Christmas Eve service will be at 10:00 pm and that on Christmas Day and New Year's Day there will be only one service at 10:30 am. Communion will be on the 8th of January rather than the 1st since Andy W. will be leading worship on January 1st.

In comparison to last year's attendance for November, attendance has been higher this year.

Sarah also notes that ministry teams will be meeting on January 5th, a week earlier than normal. It will be our orientation night. Sarah asked us to encourage all ministry team members to arrive half an hour early to help with Unhanging of the Greens.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### *Building Use Finalizing/Coordinator Position*

Robbie will retype and send the final draft for us to approve in January. We discussed the fact that someone from Council should be the point person for general building use. Amy will be the one for the exercise class; Jeannie is fine to serve as the contact for the yoga class (see below).

### *HopeMark Yoga Class Finalizing (Robbie/Dan)*

Proof of insurance received and Robbie will forward to Dan to review.

### *Remaining Lowe Estate Funds Distribution (Sarah)*

\$3,800 remains after previous distributions. Requests came in to use the remaining funds for parlor refurbishment, Habitat for Humanity (we fell short on the original pledge), money for College Care Packages for YAC. After discussion, the Council decided to designate \$800 to Habitat for Humanity, \$500 to YAC, and \$2,500 for the parlor. Motion made by Erik, seconded by Dan; motion passed.

### *Neighborhood Houses Summer Program Update (Sarah)*

Sarah described the job opportunities for the program (Site Coordinator Liaison should be someone from Hope, Servant Leader Intern Positions perfect for some of our college-age members or young adults), as well as many volunteer opportunities. Likely dates are late June to early August (exact dates to be determined). Sarah emphasized our goal of building a true ministry partnership with Neighborhood Houses for this vital program.

### *Intinction (Bethel)*

Bethel led us in a discussion of trying to figure out the best way to serve those who aren't able to come forward. We have rescheduled the calendar so that there is intinction on the odd-numbered months, mostly because we sometimes have fewer council members available to help for 4th of July and Labor Day weekends.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### *Credit Card Cash-back Fund Distribution (Sarah)*

Gina informed Sarah that we have \$400 cash-back on the church credit card. Council decided to set this aside for any potential additional custodial costs we may incur this summer with the Neighborhood Houses program here. Motion made by Sue, seconded by Robbie; motion passed.

### *Crowdfunding Process (Stewardship)*

The Council discussed suggestions to promote this project, including a link on the church's Facebook page and website. Additional ideas should be sent to Dave or Jennifer. Sarah will talk to Gina about the logistics of getting the money to our account.

*Request from ONA and Visitation Ministry Teams to Become “Standing Ministry Teams”*

Pastor Sarah mentioned that these two teams are interested in becoming standing ministry teams. As a next step, Council would like a written statement from each team describing mission statements. Upon approval, both teams would be put on the nominating slate. One concern raised was whether or not these ministry teams would need a Council liaison, as there would not be enough council members to cover all teams. Andy K. reminded us that we don't have to amend the by-laws to add these two ministries. Sarah will go back to them with the requirements. Paul C. is new chair of Visitation and Judy O. is chair of ONA.

*Officers and Liaisons for 2017*

Andy K. reminded us to think about these positions for our January meeting. He recapped the role of liaison as well as his job as President, Erik's as Vice President, Alice's as Treasurer and Jennifer's as Secretary. Robbie added to the description of Treasurer. Robbie is happy to stay on as Assistant Treasurer. Jennifer is interested in stepping down as Secretary.

*Council Retreat for 2017*

Next Council Meeting is Jan 19th. We haven't made plans yet for the Council Retreat which was in February last year. Andy K. suggested trying for September after Sarah comes back from her sabbatical so that she will have material to share with us.

*Andy W. Called to Pastor Granite City Church*

Andy W. has been called to pastor a church in Granite City beginning in February so Jan 15th will be his last day with us. We will miss him!

**VII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Andy W.)**

Erik was supposed to have this but he had to leave early. Andy W. graciously stepped in. Erik will lead January's Open Discussion. Topic: Of Love, Hope, Peace, and Joy, what do you have the most of, what do you need the most prayers for?

**VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)**

*Building and Property (Erik/Dan)*

They received a bid for one boiler (\$20,000 total cost for installation).

*Evangelism and Communication (Amy)*

Did not meet

*Finance and Insurance (Alice)*

Did not meet

*Hospitality (Robbie)*

Trying to recruit more people to help Carol. She will write up something to inform people what is involved.

*Outreach (Sue)*

Buy-a-Bird campaign has raised over \$1,000. Lydia's house gift cards are still being collected.

*Pastoral and Staff Relations (Susan)*

Did not meet

*Special Events (Tiffany)*

No Verbal Report

*Stewardship (Jennifer)*

No Verbal Report beyond earlier discussion

*Worship and Liturgical Arts (Dave)*

Did not meet. Tyler Poe has agreed to become a member of this ministry. Dave moved he be added to the ministry. Robbie seconded. Motion passed.

*Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)*

They are making preparations for the Christmas Pageant on Sunday.

*Chapel Renovation Team (Erik/Sarah)*

The team met last night, and will meet again Jan 4th to prepare for the 22nd congregational gathering. Deadline to sign up is January 8th. If more sign up, they'll do a second meeting. Article will be passed out to participants after sign-up deadline for preparatory work. Childcare will be available for January 22nd.

**IX. CLOSING PRAYER (Sarah)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer, Secretary