

**Hope United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes – January, 2017**

DATE: January 19, 2017

ATTENDEES: Pastor Sarah, Andy, Amy, Sue, Jennifer, Erik, Emma, Randee, Bethel, Robbie

ABSENTEES: Dan, Alice, Tiffany

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Andy)

Erik moved; Sue seconded. Minutes approved.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Robbie)

We reviewed the monthly balance sheet that Robbie provided. In addition, Robbie assessed our end-of-year totals, estimating that General Fund income came in just under what we budgeted (99.7% of what the budget expected). With other giving and expenses, Robbie predicted that we came in under budget by about 1% (\$305). So we had realistic expectations of our income and expenses.

Suggestions made include talking more with Gina and/or the Church Windows people to look at reorganizing the budget report to put some line items under the proper “hierarchies” rather than under miscellaneous headings at the bottom of the report. Robbie and Alice will follow up on this.

Recommendation to include in February Builder a budget recap or follow up to share with the congregation final totals for 2016.

IV. PASTOR’S REPORT (Sarah)

Sarah reported that the Adult Bible study book is backordered and so the class will begin in February. On Feb 5th, Conference Minister Ginny B. D. will be preaching at both services. On Feb 13th St. Louis AGO will be meeting here, with Jim T. as coordinator.

Noting that there were several Sundays without Hospitality Time sponsors, the Council decided that next month we will collect Council member contributions to jointly sponsor a week or two.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Communion Instruction

At the end of tonight's meeting, Bethel will walk us through communion, particularly for new members.

Bank of America Checking Account

Robbie would like to revisit the possibility of moving our checking account, given continuing poor customer service. Some discussion ensued about pros and cons of going with a local bank vs. a national bank. There were no objections to moving the accounts to another bank. Alice had investigated it previously. Andy suggested that Finance and Insurance Ministry review this and make a recommendation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Officers for 2017:

President – Andy

Vice-President – Erik

Secretary – Jennifer

Assistant Secretary – Amy

Treasurer – Alice

Assistant Treasurer – Robbie

Ministry Liaisons for 2017:

Building and Property – Dan, with Randee as backup

Evangelism and Communication – Amy

Finance and Insurance – Alice

Hospitality – Robbie

Outreach – Sue

Pastoral and Staff Relations – Emma

Special Events – Tiffany

Stewardship – Jennifer

Worship and Liturgical Arts – Robbie

Youth and Children's Ministries – Bethel

Chapel Renovation Team – not a standing committee so Erik and Sarah will provide information from their meetings

Motion to approve Officer and Liaison assignments as written above made by Erik, seconded by Amy.

Council Retreat

New location is needed for Council retreat; the Marianist Center we usually stay at was unable to accommodate us this year. Qualifications for a new place: separate sleeping quarters (shared bathrooms is fine), indoor plumbing, catered meals, dedicated meeting space, (optional: worship

space, outdoor ambience), price range approximately \$70 - \$80 per person. September or October work best (with the exception of the third weekend in September). Council members agreed to take as a homework piece finding 1-3 options and email everyone with a web link. Deadline to do this is by next Friday.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church Organist Sabbatical

Jim T. has a colleague from Webster Groves Presbyterian Church on sabbatical who has asked to use our organ for practice. Jim would take care of arrangements for this. Council approved.

Parlor Renovation Bid

Dan emailed Council with the bid from Ethan for the Parlor renovation. Proposed cost was \$1,716. Erik moved to accept the proposal as given. Decision passed.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION (Erik)

Erik had us talk about coincidences in our lives.

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Dan)

No Verbal Report; Dan emailed report.

Evangelism and Communication (Amy)

Discussed idea of posting articles that Tom writes for the Builder on the easel in the Narthex each month; getting t-shirts and bookmarks this year with new Hope logo; bookmarks to have seasonal service information and giving opportunities (like during Advent).

Finance and Insurance (Robbie)

No Verbal Report

Hospitality (Robbie)

Sarah K. has volunteered to help with bulletin boards.

Outreach (Sue)

No Verbal Report

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Emma)

Planned cake for Andy W's last Sunday on January 15th (sadly, Andy had the flu). Planning to meet with Jill and Phil B. soon.

Special Events (Tiffany)

Date set for Spaghetti dinner (March 4th).

Stewardship (Jennifer)

Work continues on the Crowdfunding Campaign. More to come about getting the word out during worship services and in the Builder, specifically information with links. Council members had questions regarding tax receipts for those donating and if/what kind of thank you goes out to those donating. Jennifer will take these questions back to Stewardship.

Worship and Liturgical Arts (Robbie)

Preparations have been made for Renewal of Baptism Sunday; will be discussing Lenten scriptures at February meeting.

Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)

No Verbal Report

Chapel Renovation Team (Erik/Sarah)

Meeting this Sunday after 2nd Service, with 13 signed up to attend, plus 8 team members.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER (Sarah)

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer, Secretary