

Hope United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes – March, 2017

DATE: March 16, 2017

ATTENDEES: Pastor Sarah, Tiffany, Emma, Robbie, Amy, Dan, Andy, Randee, Sue, Alice, Erik, Jennifer

ABSENTEES: Bethel

GENERAL NOTES:

I. OPENING PRAYER (Sarah)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Andy)

Erik moved to accept the minutes as written from the last Council Meeting. Tiffany seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Alice)

Alice gave the overview of the Financial Report, pointing out that we are going to be moving ahead with switching our phones, etc., to Spectrum (based on Council approval), and that Gina's computer is continuing to give her trouble when working in Church Windows. She is not sure if it is due to the program itself or something else. Questions and solutions were discussed, but the consensus was to consult with Miller Group. Jill will contact them.

Alice confirmed at our meeting that we have approved changing our banking from Bank of America to Lindell Bank due to the poor customer service and other issues we've faced in the past. We have discussed the reasons at prior Council Meetings. Approval to make the change was made via email with Council members.

Erik made a motion and Alice seconded to reallocate funds from some of the Memorial Funds (including the "Memorial Fund," "Mary Jane Wallace Memorial Fund," and "Pegge Helsher Memorial Fund") to assist in the cost to send Jim T. to Montreat Music and Worship Conference in June.

IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Sarah)

Sarah reported that there will be no communion on April 2nd because we will have it on Easter instead. Also, Ministry Team Meeting Night will be on April 6th instead of the 13th because of Maundy Thursday.

V. OLD BUSINESS

St. Louis Association Spring Meeting

Preparations are under way for St. Louis Association Meeting to be held here on Thursday, May 4th. Tiffany has been talking to the Special Events Ministry and Sarah has been in touch with Building & Property Ministry about needs for a ramp and other needs for rooms to be accessible to all. Sarah also spoke with Katie M. about childcare and Jim T. about music. We are in need of parking lot directions and others to greet and guide, photograph the event, etc. Suggestions were put forth regarding people who might be good for the job of coordination.

Sabbatical Pastor Update

Joseph “Jody” Clegg has been interviewed and has been put forth as the candidate who is best for this job. Reviews from those on the committee were very positive. Most duties (worship preparation and emergency pastoral care) he could perform would fit within the suggested 15 hours per week. One concern was what might happen if he had to go over this time due to a funeral or serious hospitalization by a church member which could as much as double these hours. The consensus was that he should use whatever time needed for any such needs, and be paid accordingly. Dan felt there did not need to be any adjustments to the contract we are offering. Robbie moved we accept the employment covenant as written; Amy seconded. The employment covenant was approved and the decision to have Jody as the substitute pastor during Sarah’s sabbatical, June 1st-August 31st.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Dan led us in a discussion about what folks look forward to most during spring.
(Note: Emma will lead Open Discussion in April.)

VIII. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

Building and Property (Dan)

Dan reported concerns about emergency exits being blocked. B&P is requesting more detail from Council in the original recommendation to B&P to look into “smart locks” since there are so many types. Robbie answered this with an explanation that the topic first came up in Council meetings because we need a way to allow people temporary access to the church without needing to provide them a key, so something that would allow them to type in a temporary access code that we could change as needed. We could possibly just put this on one of the doors and keep the other doors as they are.

Evangelism and Communication (Erik)

Erik said that the “Be the Church” T-shirts will be coming soon. They will be sky blue and probably will be a pre-order item. They are also making some bookmarks with our logo and Facebook and other information. They are also working toward the event of being a sponsor of outdoor movies in Francis Park three times this summer.

Finance and Insurance (Alice)

Alice said they met with Steve Levin at Stifel and had a good meeting especially since Stifel has people who specifically work with non-profit organizations. Alice came away with a sense that the next step will be trying to answer questions for them regarding growth, risk-tolerance, and whatever will help with finding the safest and best choices for our investments. Finance and Insurance Ministry will discuss these questions, hopefully at a meeting in early April, and then bring them to Council. The Stifel people are happy to present to Council when the time is right. For now, we are still with Wells Fargo and are not making the move to change yet, but since our person there is retiring, this is a good opportunity to look at the situation.

Hospitality (Robbie)

No Verbal Report

Outreach (Sue)

Sue asked Council for their blessing in becoming a member of the Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis. A donor has stepped forward to offer the \$100 joining fee. Erik motioned the approval. No second was needed. Council approved the membership.

Pastoral and Staff Relations (Emma)

Emma said they are trying to come up with a gift for Josh and brainstorming ideas, especially something that he might be able to take with him during his deployment.

Special Events (Tiffany)

Tiffany reported the spaghetti dinner went very well, both in attendance and funds raised.

Stewardship (Jennifer)

No Verbal Report

Worship (Robbie)

Robbie said they are working on plans for Lent including Maundy Thursday sign-ups for the Vigil. No actions for Council.

Youth and Children’s Ministries (Bethel)

No Verbal Report

Chapel Renovation Team (Erik/Sarah)

No meeting in March, but they will be meeting in April.

IX. CLOSING PRAYER

Sarah led us in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer