

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

**DATE:** July 20, 2017

**ATTENDEES:** Tiffany, Bethel, Randee, Dan, Erik, Jennifer, Andy, Pastor Jody, Robbie, Sue, Amy, Emma

**ABSENTEES:** Alice

### **GENERAL NOTES:**

#### **I. OPENING PRAYER**

Pastor Jody led us in prayer.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Andy)**

Erik moved; Dan seconded, minutes were approved.

#### **III. FINANCIAL REPORT (Robbie)**

- Quarterly taxes, etc., caused expenses to be a bit higher.
- Lindell Bank requires signatures, so Alice checked with Dan regarding the paperwork.
- An anonymous congregant has asked if there is any project for which we need funding. Without Alice to give us more details, Andy suggests we just go back to our ministry teams to poll them for ideas. We'll have more information about the parameters next time.
- Quilters will continue to have their own checking account, so we'll close their line on the Budget Sheet.

#### **IV. PASTOR'S REPORT (Jody)**

- Jody thanked us for our help with communion this month.
- Next week is last week of the Freedom School. Tuesday night they are having a ceremony. There will be a dinner before a musical program.
- Jill will be on vacation next week, so Jody's hours are adjusted to compliment.
- Blessing of the backpacks August 13th.
- Chapel Renovation meeting on August 14th.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### *Nominating Committee Preparation*

Andy and Erik shared their feedback from people. Take back to ministry teams the idea of approaching at least one new person for their team each year, particularly approach new members of the church. Important to get people more involved. Have ministry teams submit at least one name to Council for the Nominating Committee next month.

### *Director of Children's Ministries Position*

The job description has been completed and posted. Suggestion to post it on our Facebook page, then "boost it." Not on our website yet. Jody suggested sending to Missouri Conference.

### *Addressing Violence in our Community*

Bethel and Jody will look into Ferguson Commission recommendations for faith communities, possibly to find something for Council to read. Bethel suggested putting things into our worship bulletin each week, whether it's a special prayer or music. If we do the same thing over and over, it might get ignored, so let's vary it. What can we do, not just civically, but as a faith community? Book discussions were suggested. Andy asked us all to bring something back that we want to focus on for the education piece to our next meeting.

### *Ideas to Strengthen our Church Community*

- Bethel complimented the cover of the weekly bulletin – picture on the front wasn't the box – refreshing change. Same with the pastor's weekly email – slightly different format. Bethel suggested looking at verses of a song, having them posted around church each week.
- Although we'll have a student pastor later this year, with Josh gone, we need something to fill the gap we experience with now only having one pastor. We need to make sure our ideas are not going to put more burdens on Sarah.
- How do we retain our members? There are great things for kids, great things for retirees, but there isn't anything for those in the middle (married couples without young kids, for example). Everyone to come back to next meeting with a planned event and a date – we can work out details like whether we try to provide childcare at church.

### *Building Security*

Bethel made a clarification: building article will let general population know about the issue and the process, but talk to key holders and certain people individually. Waiting until ministry teams are meeting again regularly, but wanted to show us the form she's devised.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### *Retreat Topics*

Work on community building.

What is the interfaith cooperation among the St. Louis Hills churches? Can we work with them on our concerns about violence and peace issues we've been discussing?

Let's revisit next month.

### *Monthly Thank-you!*

- Thanks to Pastor Jody for pitching in this summer and doing a great job!
- Thank you to Sue R for taking care of the money in the sanctuary and for suggesting a key of his own for Pastor Jody.
- Thank you to Lamont for keeping up with the cleaning this summer even with the Freedom School and VBS here.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with VBS, especially our young adults/older kids.
- Thank you to Joyce for having everything ready for Jody at each of the services.

### *Gift Cards*

Questions and explanations regarding the handing out of the gift cards. Safety concerns raised. Information is also handed out to people with information about long-term help (crisis hotlines, food pantries, utility assistance). Could the money that is being offered be used for something like this – we'll check with Alice.

### *Concern Regarding our Kitchen Rental*

Note to have Joyce or Jill check in with the kitchen rental situation since some questions came up from Building & Property Ministry and what's showing on the budget.

## **VII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Due to time constraints, we skipped this.

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

### *Building and Property (Dan)*

No Verbal Report

### *Evangelism and Communication (Amy)*

Movie night in Francis Park so we'll be represented there.

### *Finance and Insurance (Alice)*

Meeting in August.

*Hospitality*

No Verbal Report

*Outreach (Sue)*

No Verbal Report

*Pastoral and Staff Relations (Emma)*

No Verbal Report

*Special Events (Tiffany)*

Talent show is in the works.

*Stewardship (Jennifer)*

No Verbal Report

*Worship (Robbie)*

No Verbal Report

*Youth and Children's Ministries (Bethel)*

No Verbal Report

*Chapel Renovation Team (Erik)*

No Verbal Report

## **IX. CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor Jody led us in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer