

# **Hope United Church of Christ**

## **Council Meeting Minutes – August, 2017**

**DATE:** August 17, 2017

**ATTENDEES:** Amy K., Bethel H., Emma A., Sue R., Pastor Jody C., Andy K., Robbie V.N., Alice G., Erik H., Jennifer T.

**ABSENTEES:** Tiffany B., Dan E., Randee L.

### **GENERAL NOTES:**

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

Pastor Jody led us in prayer.

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

Motion to approve by Erik, seconded by Amy. Minutes approved.

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

- Alice reported that the numbers look a little skewed because of \$5,000 for 2nd Quarter Outreach distribution that was included in Total Expenses. On the Balance Sheet, July payroll taxes were listed under Liabilities. She also drew our attention to the Gateway ONA Fund balance so that we can distinguish between what money is actually going to ONA vs. what is being used for the ministry. We will be taking this out of the Outreach Fund to give it its own line. There was a question about the balance remaining in the Brueggjenjohann Memorial Fund because the original plan was to use it for the parlor expenses, particularly the furniture, so it will be used to pay back Small Building Projects for the money owed. Andy and Alice discussed Outreach Fund activity. The Youth Mission Trip was over-budget, so ideas were entertained regarding how to make this up.
- We haven't received payment for the kitchen for the month of July so discussion ensued regarding where the copy of the contract is located and who the contact person is for this. We'll have Joyce try to make contact and ask some questions. We will also ask Dan to review the contract about specifics.
- Since we are nearing the end of the third quarter, do we need to do a better job keeping the congregation informed about how finances are doing? Maybe include again in the Bulletin? Concerns that it can be demoralizing when we are in a deficit, when we are doing well it can also cause people to back off because they think their contribution isn't necessary. Sue recommended reporting quarterly on what overall income and expenses look like. We want to be transparent and will gladly answer anyone's questions regarding these, but is it something we need to publish? This is something we'll discuss more at the retreat.

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

- Pastor Jody reminded us that the office will be closed Monday and Jill & Joyce will be trading hours next week. Sarah's first day back will be September 1st, followed by her first Sunday back on September 3rd.
- September 16th is the fall clean-up work day.
- The guest organist who played in June lives in the neighborhood and asked Jim T if he could get permission to use our organ for practice. We'd like to get references and make sure someone is available to let him in. Jody will talk more with Jim T. We'll discuss more via email before approving.
- Attendance is back to normal now that school is back in session.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### *Nominating Committee Progress*

Erik asked us to consider our short list of possible new Council members and other ministries. Email Erik with any other names.

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

Bethel let us know there are four people interested in the position. The committee will be interviewing in the coming weeks. One person is a member; the other three are not members.

##### *Addressing Violence in our Community*

Pastor Jody and Bethel met after the last Council Meeting. They came up with the idea of talking with Anna M. about the Freedom School and the community component that could be used. Jennifer and Pastor Jody named some other resources they discovered that might help in our efforts.

##### *Ideas to Strengthen our Church Community*

- Bethel reminded us that we are trying to get people interested in going to a play and dinner together at the end of September (details in the Builder).
- Sue brought up reviving our New Member Dinner, so we'll try to come to September's meeting with some possible dates for this.
- Andy recommended a board game/potluck dinner night possibly in February or even a trivia night.
- Andy brought up questions about forming a ministry team to plan events, and maybe also reach out to members who haven't come to church in a while. Should these be paired or separate? Who really is in charge?
- Bethel's ministry team thought that our sign was very plain, not very thought-provoking. Could we ask for new ideas? Maybe just provide Pastor Sarah with ideas. Evangelism and Communication Ministry will bring it up at their next meeting.

- A suggestion was made to have liturgists introduce themselves and welcome visitors. Recommendation to have those making announcements introduce themselves and maybe say what ministry they are representing with their announcement.

#### *Gift Cards*

Request for Alice to check what our need is for gift cards in the office and ask the person who is contributing a donation if putting the money toward gift cards would be a good idea or if they have something else in mind.

#### *Retreat Topics*

We discussed earlier: financial information, addressing violence, strengthening our church community. We'll go more in depth during our retreat.

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Monthly Thank-you!*

- Andy thanked Council for their help with childcare during his family's move.
- Council thanked Pastor Jody for his hard work and help this summer and the joy of his sermons and hymn choices and bringing a different perspective to things.
- Big thanks for our Building and Property Ministry members and the amount of work they do on a volunteer basis. They do so much for us. This is clear if you read the monthly report from the ministry.

#### *HopeMark Yoga and Karate*

Jeannie asked for Council's blessing to offer yoga to families of HopeMark members using the same instructor she's been using for the kids' class. She would also like to bring in someone for karate lessons. He is interested in teaching a self-defense class as well. Questions about insurance coverage arose. Proper paperwork is in order and just needs to get to us. Pending approval via email after a little more information is gathered by Robbie.

### **VII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Skipped this due to time. (Robbie is scheduled for September's meeting)

### **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)*

We're moving the church's checking account. Still working on the change-over from Wells Fargo to Stiefel. Questions to still answer regarding some of the language in the contract.

*Hospitality*

No Verbal Report

*ONA*

No Verbal Report

*Outreach (Sue)*

Second quarter donation statements have been sent.

*Pastoral and Staff Relations (Emma)*

No Verbal Report

*Special Events (Tiffany)*

No Verbal Report

*Stewardship (Jennifer)*

We are using the theme "*Journey to Generosity: The Way of Jesus.*" Consecration Sunday will be the 2nd Sunday in October.

*Worship (Robbie)*

Having Communion Stewards on a schedule is working. System of ushers by ministry teams is also going well. Council will usher in January. Question was raised, "Are we missing an opportunity to get new members involved?"

*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