

**HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MEETING
February 15, 2018**

Present: Erik H., Robbie V., Pastor Sarah, Bethel H., Andy K., Dan E., Amy K., Emma A., Randee L., Tiffany B., Kathy S., Ron Z.

Other Attendee: Jeanne Ryan

Absent: Jennifer T.

I. OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Sarah led us in prayer

II. ANNUAL REPORT FROM HOPEMARK

Jeanne Ryan presented to Council the Annual Report from HopeMark. Pursuant to Hope's liability insurance policy, three Church members shall serve on HopeMark's Board of Directors. The three Board Members for 2018 are Robbie Van Nest, Bethel Hale, and Ethan Hale.

The extracurricular classes (dance/yoga/karate) have been very successful. They allow the HopeMark students to spend more time at the facility.

Jeanne raised the possibility of using the Fellowship Hall and possibly other spaces in the Church for student events like birthday parties.

Jeanne expressed a desire to have her staff retrained on CPR/AED training and indicated that, if Church members were interested in participating, that could help manage the cost of the class(es). She will coordinate with Youth & Children's Ministries for that.

The Hope/HopeMark partnership is an asset to the Church and the St. Louis Hills neighborhood.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve January Minutes by Erik; seconded by Tiffany. Minutes approved, subject to the revision to reflect that Andy was present for the January meeting, but that he recused himself from the vote on the Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

January was a low-income month, likely due to the fact there was one less Sunday in January 2018 than in 2017. The new tax laws may have caused an increase in December giving that was offset in January. The first quarter insurance payment increased January expenses.

It was recommended that the Church explore moving payroll administration in house, which could save almost \$1,400.00 annually in fees. A specific proposal will be presented to Council in the future.

V. PASTOR'S REPORT

Ash n' Dash brought in approximately 12 people on Ash Wednesday. There are 5 people attending the new member class. The 10:30 service on March 11 will feature the Mission Moment with Clarence Heller to introduce the Moment of Grace and Prayer Retreat.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Bethel Hale volunteered to be the Welcomer for spring break group that will be using the Church from March 12-16. B&P will provide the Office with a task/job list to be completed by the spring break group if needed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Monthly thank you!

- Kathy thanked Carol Zimmer;
- Sarah thanked the Openers & Closers for Sunday services; and
- Kathy thanked Sarah for Ash Wednesday service.

B. Kathy and Amy/Andy volunteered to be liaisons One Body & Worship team, respectively.

C. Ron addressed recruitment for representation for the St. Louis Association and Missouri Mid-South Conference.

D. Ethan Hale will have an extended absence later this year that will require B&P to coordinate his "for-hire" jobs in his absence.

E. Ron recommended marketing the commercial kitchen space to help offset the annual costs associated with the kitchen. B&P will further research the issue and report back to Council.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ron led open discussion with the theme "made in God's image" and how easy it is to lose sight of that when engaging in discussion with those who hold opposing points of view.

IX. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

- Building and Property – NVR
- Evangelism and Communication – NVR
- Finance and Insurance – the necessity of a new roof has caused F&I to look into funding for the project, which will be approximately \$200,000.00. It was preliminarily recommended that the Church draw upon the Endowment Fund for the expense, and that the matter be taken to a congregational vote to approve. The alternative funding source would likely have to be a bank loan. At this time, F&I will further research the loan alternative and associated costs/interest rates, and B&P will refine the bids to get more accurate numbers on the project. The soft target date for any congregational meeting was set for May 6, 2018, after the 10:30 service, with an informational meeting/presentation tentatively set for April 22, 2018 after the 10:30 service.

- Hospitality – NVR
- One Body Ministry – NVR
- Open and Affirming – NVR
- Outreach – Spice Sunday will take place on 2/18/2018 and 2/25/2018.
- Pastoral and Staff Relations – NVR
- Special Events – Spaghetti Supper is scheduled for March 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
- Stewardship – NVR
- Worship and Liturgical Arts – communion servers are needed to fill in holes in the schedule
- Youth and Children’s Ministries – Ron moved to raise the childcare hourly rate of pay from \$9 to \$10; Robbie seconded; motion passed.
- Chapel Renovation Team – NVR

X. CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor Sarah led us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Addendum: For e-mail vote following the January Council meeting, the Council approved the hiring of Sara Karcher as our new Coordinator of Youth and Children’s Ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan