

**HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MEETING
June 21, 2018**

Present: Andy K., Jennifer T., Tiffany B., Emma A., Erik H., Pastor Sarah, and Bethel H.

Other Attendees: Tom M. (on behalf of Evangelism and Communication)

Absent: Kathy S., Amy K., Dan E., Robbie V., Randee L., and Ron Z.

I. OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Sarah led us in prayer.

II. “SHARE HOPE INITIATIVE” PRESENTATION (E&C Team)

Tom M. and Pastor Sarah introduced us to the “Share Hope Initiative” which has an ultimate goal of building relationships with God, each other, and the community. A secondary goal of the initiative is to increase congregational participation and population.

Tom M. learned of this initiative, and how it was carried out, through his parents’ church, St. John UCC in St. Charles, MO. Tom researched the book *Unbinding Your Heart* and witnessed all the positive results of his parents’ church putting this book to action. St. John UCC saw its members grow in their faith understanding and create deeper relationships. St. John UCC grew in membership and spread the UCC message organically (through hot topic panels, movie nights, social get togethers, cookie baking at Christmas, etc.). Pastor Sarah and Tom met with St. John UCC’s Pastor Lisa to discuss the initiative in depth.

Like many denominations, in the last few decades, the UCC has been in a membership decline. Since 2005, congregations that had less than 100 in average worship attendance almost doubled from about 40% to 80%. Hope UCC has followed this trend of a decline in attendance though our vitality has remained strong throughout. We are an active and loving church with good news to share. This initiative will give us the preparation and tools to share our faith stories and spread our love for Hope into the community.

The initiative will follow the book “*Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing.*”

The initiative is a six-week series of small group gatherings at its core. Group sessions include faith sharing, book discussion and relationship building with God, each other and the community. All ages welcomed (confirmands on up). During the six-week period, the Sunday morning worships will focus on specific initiative topics. The small groups will have a variety of meeting times and locations. Members will have a personal daily commitment through a 40-day prayer and faith-sharing component.

We want all Hope members and friends to attend. If we desire to bring a shift and transformation in congregational life, this initiative has to have a large amount of participation.

The Initiative Timeline:

Planning and Preparation stage: June 2018 - March 2019

E&C will recruit a group of about 5 members, plus Pastor Sarah, and will meet monthly until next March. They will read the book “*Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*,” the leadership book for *Unbinding Your Heart*. These folks will become small group leaders.

Promotion stage:

Easter April 21, 2019 - August 18, 2019

Promotion for this initiative will kick off on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. Promotion will last through mid-August.

Implementation stage:

Sign-up day and six-week initiative

Sign up day will be August 18, 2019. The six-week session begins September 23 and ends November 3, 2019. Groups will meet once a week. After signing up, everyone will receive a book and gift bag. Nov 10, 2019 is our Annual Meeting. There could possibly be an initiative celebration after the meeting.

Beyond the six-week session:

The initiative doesn't just end after the session. The goal is to keep our relationships going and invite others from outside the church to participate in activities with church members. We want to continue to find ways to welcome others into Hope.

Funding:

The initiative will require funding upfront for the books and gift bags. Books are 20 dollars each. Will place a donation envelope in each book so members can pay what they can for them. St. John UCC broke even on their books through their book donation funds. A small gift bag will be handed out at the kick off of the initiative. The gift bag will include the book and helpful tools for the six-week series such as: a journal, a pen, notecards, prayer beads, play dough, etc.

E&C welcomes ideas and suggestions as the initiative begins. Hope to get around 80% of average worship attendance to participate.

By consensus, Council gives their blessing and support to the “Share Hope Initiative” and the E&C Ministry Team moving forward. Council also endorses the proposed timeline of the initiative.

III. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Motion to approve May minutes by Erik; seconded by Tiffany. May minutes approved.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

May was a lower giving month, which is normal for this quarter when compared to last year. This resulted in an approximate operating budget deficit of \$4,600.00.

The switch from ADP to in-house payroll will take place next month in July.

Tiffany will contact and remind Gina to move the funds from the Keith Zimmer Memorial Fund to be allocated for Camp MoVal with the details she has on file. This decision was made by Keith's family.

Tiffany will also ask Gina for the Spread the Love Fund Balance breakout. Council would like to revisit this next month to confirm the fund's allocations.

V. PASTOR'S REPORT

Joyce is on vacation June 25-July 3. Jill will work half days in the mornings on this week.

Pastor Sarah will be out of the office July 15/16 for her birthday. Pastor Jody will preach on Sunday, July 15.

Memorial Day attendance was very low this year.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Promoting/Planning Roof Funding Proposal Meeting and vote: July 22 and July 29
Ethan H. wrote a Builder article promoting the two dates. Pastor Sarah will include the dates in her weekly pastor emails. It was suggested that Ron Zimmer make a couple announcements during the 8:15 service. The following Council members will make announcements during the 10:30 service: Bethel (June 24), Tiffany (July 1), Andy (July 8), and Jennifer (July 15).

In preparation for the informational Building and Property Roof Funding Presentation, Pastor Sarah will email Finance and Insurance's Dan E. and Alice G., and B&P's Ethan H., Randy H., and John W. to confirm their role in the presentation and promotion. Andy volunteered to help with coordination, and will moderate the congregation meeting on July 29 as Council President.

- B. Update on 75th Anniversary Committee
A group of 9 volunteers has been formed for the committee with a variety of ages and years of membership represented. The first meeting will be held after the 10:30 church service on Sunday, August 12.

Continue to email any anniversary suggestions or ideas to Andy K. or Pastor Sarah.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Monthly thank you!

- Bethel H. wanted to thank all who came and helped during last Saturday's work day. It was a great turnout!
- Pastor Sarah wanted to give a very special thank you to Terry Thuet for his leadership in the work day.
- Bethel H. wanted to thank Tom Mennerick for his passion and energy in his leadership role of the Hope Share Initiative.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Open discussion was led by Bethel H.

IX. MINISTRY TEAMS (ACTION ITEMS ONLY)

- Building and Property – Met briefly after the work day (6/15/18). Council approved through an online vote of the hiring Charles and William Mennerick for Ethan Hale's job position while Ethan is out of town. The Mennericks met with Ethan to review job responsibilities. Gina is in contact with the Mennericks to fill out employee paperwork.
- Evangelism and Communication – NVR
- Finance and Insurance – NVR
- Hospitality – A nice sign-up sheet is in the hallway for anyone wanting to help with donuts and bulletin boards.
- One Body Ministry – Will meet July 1st after church.
- Open and Affirming – Met at the end of May and prepared for Pride weekend (June 23/24) including painting the wonderful rainbow chairs.
- Outreach – NVR
- Pastoral and Staff Relations – NVR
- Special Events – The Hope Talent Show will take place October 13th. Dinner and dessert will be included.
- Stewardship – In the process of planning the campaign for summer and fall. More info to come.

- Worship and Liturgical Arts – NVR
- Youth and Children’s – Preparing for VBS.
- Chapel Renovations – Met with a consultant from Porter Paints. Paint was chosen. Will buy small portions of paint to put on large poster boards to confirm the paint colors. General bids have already been gotten for comparison.

X. CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor Sarah led us in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Emma A.