

OVUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2018

Attendees: Jim McIntosh, Michelle Sabin, Beverly Ricks, Barbara Kennedy, Suzy Gabbert, Tom Graves, Sandra Fincher, Sarah Whitmer, BJ Ellender, Cleve Murphy, Marty Bieber, Rick Russell, Judy Tillman, Rob Hyatt, Lori Roshon

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, asked that we remember all those affected by the high school shooting in FL, and led us in an opening prayer.

Michelle led us in a devotion based on Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man).

The December council meeting minutes were approved.

The decision was reached that the council did not need to name a vice-chair.

We also agreed to move council meetings to the second Tuesday of even months at 6:30pm.

Lay Leader:

Judy said she and Michelle are continuing in the Fellows program. We are encouraging newer congregants to take on responsibilities, and there are several new volunteers. There will be an usher/greeter hospitality celebration on 2/25 during which pizza will be provided, volunteers will be thanked, and a few guidelines will be explained.

Wellness:

BJ said this new committee is expanding and is focused on Faith and Health/Wellness. The wellness committee intends to offer a program each quarter. Holy yoga will be offered for six weeks during Lent, and there will be CPR training this Saturday, 2/17. There is a need to get a few people trained to open the columbarium, and training can be provided on either 2/27 or 3/1 at either 11am or 3pm. They are also working on a dedication ceremony for it. Tammy Littlejohn is doing a good deal of counseling, is comfortable with this work environment, and will be offering some workshops in the future.

Associate Pastor:

Rick will be bringing the message at the Lenten service at Oak Island First Baptist on 2/28, and Ocean View will be hosting the Lenten service on 3/14. Southport Elementary is ready to have some mentors provided through the Congregations for Children program, but the flu season has slowed things down. A veterans appreciation meal is being planned, and about 100 veterans are expected. Lunch on the House is still happening, and will move to 2nd and 4th Saturdays so as not to conflict with another church providing lunches. There will be a Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event on 9/15. Rick said that Susie Bachman and Diana Slate are helping with visitations, and that Lori Roshon and Janice Kowalchuk are helping reach out to first-time visitors.

Worship:

Suzy said they are trying to provide Radical Hospitality. She mentioned that there are 3 special Lenten crosses in the sanctuary. They had a meeting regarding the 9:30 service, and several ideas to help grow that service were generated. Michelle added that Suzy really does a great job taking ideas and making them happen.

UMW:

Barbara expressed concern that UMW meeting attendance has been down. She passed out an extensive list of planned UMW activities and events for 2018.

SPRC:

Sandra said that three new committee members were brought onboard. She said that all church staff members received salary increases this year. There was concern raised about music during worship services if Greg is ever out unexpectedly, and Michelle said she knows a pianist who could substitute if ever that situation arises again. The finance committee will look into what funds could be used to pay a substitute pianist.

Trustees:

Tom said that trustees have been busy fixing things day to day. The roof had been leaking over the choir area and also over Lisa's office area, so a fairly major roof repair was made to both areas at a cost of \$12K in January. The church sign will be replaced, and a non-electronic sign will likely be purchased at a total cost of around \$12K (an electronic sign would be significantly more). They are in the process of nailing down options and obtaining a permit. Suzy suggested that we might get "flag signs" that could be put out on Sunday mornings and taken down after services.

Finance:

Rob passed out a 2017 summary report, and said that while we didn't have a full-fledged stewardship campaign, we still had a 15% increase in pledged giving over last year. January giving was down a bit from budget, but the church was closed on one Sunday due to weather. They are planning an audit. They are also working on reducing the number of special accounts holding monies that aren't being spent.

Communications:

Sarah has plans to have the first phase of the new web site finished by the end of the first quarter. She asked that each committee review the content of their area and provide her with any needed updates. She said that the daily news is now being produced by only two people in rotation, and asked for help identifying another person for the team.

New Business:

Barbara proposed the formation of a new Creation Care Team, and provided a handout describing it. By acclamation, the council approved the formation of this team.

One of the concerns related to this was the use of styrofoam at the church. Judy moved that we no longer accept styrofoam (use what we already have, but don't let any more come in), Cleve seconded, and the motion was passed.

The UMW and the Kitchen Committee would like to get light-weight round tables and chairs for the MPR at a cost of \$7K to \$7.5K (20 to 25 tables and 175 to 200 chairs). They ran the idea by the Trustees, who approved of the idea. The finance committee will check on any seed funding the church budget could support and report back during the next council meeting.

Pastor:

Michelle said that three new members classes have added many new members, and that they are participating in church activities. She said we need to strike a balance between the interests of current members and the stimulation of growth. She also mentioned that on 2/20, the Lay leaders and Pastors of OVUMC will hear a presentation by the Commission on a Way Forward to find out where the UMC is heading in terms of its position on homosexuality.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next meeting is April 10.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Bieber