

OVUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2018

Attendees: Jim McIntosh, Michelle Sabin, Beverly Ricks, Rick Russell, Cleve Murphy, Judy Tillman, Marty Bieber, Tom Graves, Barbara Kennedy, Bev Dwane, Sandra Fincher, Sarah Whitmer, Rob Hyatt, Karen Henzel

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, we prayed the Wesley Covenant Prayer, and Jim led us in a devotion based on Matthew 14:25-31 (Jesus walks on the water).

The February council meeting minutes were approved.

Lay Leader:

Judy said the usher/greeter hospitality celebration went well, and that the most recent Fellows program class was very good and she took copious notes to share with Michelle.

Trustees:

Tom said that a sub-committee has been formed to address security, and there are discussions on improved lighting in the parking lot. Regarding the church sign, the town is concerned with the depth of the current footings, and if they deem them not deep enough, the sign we order may have to be a bit smaller than currently planned. After town approval, it will take about 6 weeks to manufacture before being shipped. There are no specific plans for the playground, except perhaps replacing some fencing. There have been no discussions about removing any playground equipment – it is understood that it does get used.

UMW:

Barbara reiterated a few recent UMW events, reminded us of tomorrow's (4/11) reception for DS Edie Gleaves, and listed a few upcoming events. She noted that all the new tables and chairs for the MPR are here, and that all the old chairs are gone, having been donated to two local churches who greatly appreciated the gift.

Adult Intentional Faith Development:

Bev said that the recent new members class had 36 attendees, out of whom 30 joined the church. She also listed good attendance numbers for the recent Climate Justice, Disciple Fast Track, and two Lenten study classes. She remarked that some who attended the Climate Justice class have formed a Creation Care Team. She also passed out a proposed procedure for the curriculum for ongoing groups and short-term classes, and explained the reasoning behind it – no issues were raised.

Staff Parish Relations:

Sandra said that they are working on an update to the employee manual, and that some minor changes to the time sheet procedure are required for compliance.

Communications:

Sarah said that updates to the web site are very close to going live, and showed us an offline version of what it looks like. She said that any area whose committee has not provided updates will have content carried over from the current web site. She said that a new person has joined the Daily News team, which is now back to a “full staff” of three. Barbara noted how helpful Sarah had been with some recent UMW communications.

Although Suzy was not present, Pastor Michelle noted that the Worship committee did a great job through the Easter season.

Finance:

Karen passed out a 2018 Giving vs Expense report, and explained how even though Q1 looked substantially behind, it really had to do with where the Sundays fell on the calendar and when the monthly bills get paid, as evidenced by the fact that as of Q2 Week 2, the YTD variance is back to positive. She noted that many donations provided Ted Dingley with significantly more than he expected to take on his mission trip. The finance team passed out a list of the proposed fund consolidations they had worked out (to eliminate the special accounts holding monies that aren't being or cannot be spent). After some discussion and the removal of two listed items, a motion was approved to accept the proposed consolidations. One of the two removed items will be addressed by contacting the donor to discuss the reallocation of funds. The other removed item will be addressed at an upcoming charge conference. The audit of 2017 finances is in the works, and the next audit (of 2018 finances) will be more extensive. The down payment on the church sign has been paid. The new MPR tables and chairs were all paid for by donations.

Pastor:

Michelle said that we are focusing on growing the Kingdom by radical hospitality. She plans to get a group together to go through the entire church building and create a list of all areas that could use attention (fixing, painting, etc.) so these can be addressed. Michelle is also drafting a letter she plans to publish to the congregation regarding the issues being dealt with by the Commission on a Way Forward (regarding how the denomination treats LGBTQ inclusion), and she will elicit feedback from the council before publishing. And after annual conference, OVUMC will have a forum where folks can express their thoughts on these issues.

Associate Pastor:

Rick expressed concern that the Emmaus community is crumbling, but here we've had two new members and nine at a reunion meeting. He also reminded us of the Veterans' Thank You Celebration and Meal on Saturday, 4/14.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Bieber