

OVUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2017

Attendees: Ernest Leatherman, Judy Tillman, Jeri Robinson, Rick Russell, Marty Bieber, Suzy Gabbert, Sarah Whitmer, Don Kluttz, Barbara Kennedy, Sarah Leatherman, and Michelle Sabin

Ernest called the meeting to order at 7pm, read a passage from the The Ragamuffin Gospel, and led us in prayer.

Ernest asked for volunteers to assume the roles of Vice Chair and Secretary. Jeri Robinson is the new Vice Chair, and Marty Bieber is the new Secretary.

The December council meeting minutes were approved.

Highlights of 2016 committee activity, 2017 goals and needs:

Finance: Judy said that 2016 giving within 1% of budget, stewardship campaign was successful, and some needed policies were put in place. Goals are to continue to encourage good stewardship and to find a successor for Judy so she can get a start on the transfer of knowledge.

Communications: Sarah W. said that the OVUMC web site has undergone substantial updates and will soon have Michelle's blog, and that she will be attending a leadership conference in April.

Associate Pastor: Rick said that he has become much more computer savvy (thanks to help), has recruited study leaders, allocated more time for reading, Heavenly Crafters are doing some home visits, and that the winter nights sheltering program went very well and OVUMC had excess funding which was turned over to help other churches with their commitments to the program. He is looking for a course on either prayer or discipline to offer, and wants to have a small group study fair.

Worship: Suzy said they've changed the bulletin format and now have a separate prayer list, changed the communion format, added an additional Christmas eve service, and along with the Trustees are updating the look of parts of the church building. They are also planning to have a Fat Tuesday event.

Lay Leader: Don said there was a good response from communion stewards about training – thinking about having two sessions: one morning and one evening. There will be leaders training March 4th.

UMW: Barbara said that bake sales and such are all on track, there are upcoming inter-church and harbor district meetings, and OVUMC will be doing the last Lenten lunch.

SPRC: Sarah L. said that Michelle will be taking on the supervisory role for church employees, SPRC met with all half-time or more employees to get/give feedback and set goals, employee job descriptions have been created, and the employee manual has been updated.

Pastor's Report: Michelle passed out a chart showing the organization she sees us migrating toward. She wants to start the leadership nomination process in March, but wanted to make sure we all agreed to the organizational vision, which we did.

Finance Report: Judy passed out a spreadsheet with the 2016 numbers. She also said that the number of designated funds was reduced, stewardship pledges were much improved from the prior year, January giving was up substantially from 2016 (which was also a 5 Sunday month), and gifts were received to create two contingency funds: budget and trustee.

New Business: None was brought up.

Next meeting is April 4.

Rick closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Bieber