

**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes February 18th, 2016

Opening: Gary Daniels called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order on February 18th, 2016 at Peace United Methodist Church.

Attendees: Faye Myer, Larry Myer, Gary Daniels, Pat Ambrose, Aaron Rowe, Julie Chatfield, Rostam Kondolojy, Eddie Pipkin, Ken White, Leeann Inman, Calvin Head, Drew Emerson, Catherine Bruce.

Approval of December Minutes

- Julie Chatfield emailed December Minutes in advanced for review.
- December 2015 Minutes are approved and are now posted on the website.

General Discussion: Gary Daniels

Survey

- Gary shared statistical handouts regarding average attendance.
- Discussion was shared regarding the desire for Council members to conduct a survey regarding the status of our church.
- The Council suggested target groups such as Sunday School, Emmaus, Men's Groups, Praise Team, Chancel Choir, UMW, Children's Ministry and Youth Parents, Scouts, Preschool, and other groups who use the church.
- It would also be good to hear from youth parents whose children attend youth but who do not worship at Peace.
- Aaron, Cat and Gary agreed to work on the survey.
- Gary also agreed to create a meeting schedule for the survey.
- Leeann requested to review the survey with the staff to ensure we are not missing anything.
- If others have ideas, send them to Aaron.
- Drew recommended that questions regarding the facility be included in the survey.
- It was suggested to be careful not to direct questions with an intended answer and to leave opportunity for additional comments.
- With the general overall down trend of church attendance, it was inquired how our church attendance compared?

Advertising

- Another priority of our Leadership is advertising.
- As we consider advertising, it was recommended to include descriptors like diversity, inclusion, Children and Youth and relevant worship.
- The first step is to discover the cost advertising involves.
- Suggested advertising opportunities included The Hunters Creek Magazine, the local movie theater, and more Facebook Ads.
- Eddie is focusing on communication and can assist with this.
- We are hoping to leverage money for social media instead of printed material.

Resident Opportunity

- We are seriously considering a year residency with a seasoned pastor interested in serving in a diverse multicultural church.
- This is in effort to look forward and to create a smooth transition to Peace's next phase.
- Bob Bushong, the District Superintendent, has been integral through the process so far, watching our reports, and is impressed with what we have accomplished. He feels Peace is a great candidate for the program.
- The program started under Dan Jackson, Conference Director for Church Development, to develop leaders for multicultural ministries.
- The idea for the program is to place multi cultural leaders in congregations with seasoned leaders to help train that person and promote multicultural churches.
- Though this program is a residency program supporting new church plants, the idea is to break the mold and make it a year residency with the intention of this person remaining at Peace.
- Demographics and organic diversity are part of the criteria necessary for church candidates.
- The resident pastor will not be a new pastor, but ordained clergy with experience.
- This person would work in conjunction with Pastor Leeann, under her guidance.
- The salary and housing allowance would be fully funded by the Conference.
- The resident would be a full time staff person with the intention of transition to leadership at Peace.
- The residency could start as early as July 2016.
- This plan has already been shared with staff and core leadership.
- If the resident pastor is not a fit, we are not obligated.
- The Conference, DS, etc, is already interviewing candidates.
- This is an applied for position, so the person will come with the desire for the opportunity.
- It is also a competitive process.
- Certain gifts and skills are necessary for the position such as being bi-lingual and have a passion for multicultural congregations.
- The person will have responsibilities outside of Peace, but so does Leeann. This is not unusual.
- Pat motions to pursue and start the process for a residency program at Peace. All unanimously agreed.

Worship

- We have a really exciting Holy Week coming. Keep your eyes on the website to see what's up.
- We are offering the Seder Meal and Youth involvement in the Maundy Thursday Holy Communion.
- Also we are running a Facebook ad for Easter.

Communications- Larry Myer

- Facebook is going very well.
- Daily devotions are back. Thank you Catherine Bruce.
- We are also now showing up on Twitter and Homepage.
- There are lots of opportunities for people to engage.
- There is a Biker Sunday ad campaign on Facebook and over 20,000 people have been served the ad.
- There have been lots of clicks to our website.
- Future projects include Google calendar with a homegrown news presentation.

UMW- Faye Myer

- The next meeting speaker will be from the district UMW to speak about the legacy to fund UMW for the future.
- This year will be 120 years for the United Methodist Women.
- There is also now a Facebook page for UMW.

Devotions- Catherine Bruce

- Devotions have started back up.
- There are only 4 spots left for the devotions.
- We have 3-4 youth that are writing with one youth per week.
- People are excited about it.

Trustees- Drew Emerson

- We are going Green. We are now able to have recycle pick up.
- We are also starting a policy for gifts a person donates towards a project.
- If they give a substantial amount, instead of having plaques for each project, it is recommended to have one plaque with many names located in a prominent place, honoring each gift.
- The objective for this was to set control over the amount of plaques all over the place.
- We are getting requests for nameplates now and wanted a process in place.
- We are hoping to install the classroom sinks and counters over the summer.
- We are also working ways to use the vacant land. We loved the income.
- The easiest idea so far is soccer fields. But we are open to new ideas.
- Our initial brainstorm was how to utilize the land without spending money.
- The last thing on our agenda was to renew our relationship with the Hunters Creek Community Association.
- Drew would like to make that happen.
- Ken recommended getting Bonnie White involved because she knows Steve Logan. Also, Amy Benison is a good representative, because of Relay for Life.
- It was brought to our attention that the large sinkhole was back open.
- Drew commented that it is not our land, but rather Orange County Utility.
- It was noted that though it is unlikely that someone would fall into the hole, we do have some liability.
- Questions were asked about the droopy nets on the volleyball court?
- Trustees assured that they are very connected and have inherited the project.

Youth- Calvin Head

- We are getting closer to spring break mission trip.
- The Diva and Dudes 5K is doing pretty well.
- A couple of people going to meet with track shake to get support.
- This Friday is cut off for t-shirts.
- Joanna would like sponsors. We need sponsors for community and businesses.
- There are prizes that go out and we need donated prizes.
- There are a few students who want to start a sports team pick up league. Especially with the development of volley ball court.
- Calvin shared about the event/training he went to. It was an exploration conference- Looking into lay person, clergy, elders and helping them decide their calling. Very cool that explained what they did and etc.
- It was filled with college people.

Tech- Ken

- We have had some minor issues with main computer.

- It's starting to loose it's legs, it's not in the budget, but it shut down about two months ago. We are afraid to reboot it.
- It was inquired with i-cloud if we have everything backed up?
- We have sent for an upgrade for Media Shout and are still trying to look for a better lighting program.
- The team is in and out of town, but Brandon saved us with programing the new lights.
- We are doing our best to keep it running.
- Lights are working great and we haven't had to replace light bulbs. We have saved a ton.
- The power bill went through the roof in the winter. We are wondering if it was the Christmas tree lights??

Biker Sunday- Eddie

- The two screens leaving middle open was the right way to go.
- Biker Sunday looks like it's going to be a great day.
- For a lot of years we thought of Biker Sunday as evangelism. But it's really for the Bike community and is kind of a homecoming. Many look forward to the event.
- We make a lot of connections even within our own family.
- And Joel Hickman is going to be sharing during the sermon time and has a powerful witness to share. Lot's of good stuff.
- We need to consider if we want to grow the event next year.

Children: Rostam

- We just got back from Children's Pastors Conference in Chattanooga with a lot of ideas towards Children's Ministry, how to present it and not to present it. Lot's of fun.
- Kids night Out is on the horizon as an outreach.
- VBS is on the horizon. Cave quest. Summer Camp also.
- 45s going on an Overnight with a Mission Focus to Wycliff and Cru.
- Julie heading to Bethel for a week of Intensives.
- Stop Hunger Now- Family Outreach part of Biker Sunday Missions.

Staff Parish- Aaron

- Team updated our profile data for the Conference.
- We have an open slot on the team that still has not been filled.
- The top item on the agenda for our next meeting is the Staff Benefits.
- Robert Blackwood has volunteered to chair up that investigation.

Outreach- Pat

- We are a month away from Cross Walk on March 25th. Do we want to do it, follow the same route, involve more churches?
- Council approved Cross Walk.
- Last year it began at 4:00 p.m. and there was an off duty Sheriff to help.
- We have to be at Peace by 7:00 p.m.
- Biker Sunday is covered with volunteers and supplies.
- There was an inquiry if we are interested in an Apartment Ministry or if we had any other ideas for outreach.
- How do we let apartments know we are here and what we have to offer?
- We are sending people back to the Bahamas. The trip is open to anybody who wants to go.
- Primarily it's a church exchange where we will be running VBS.
- There is a request for funding.
- They are looking for \$2500.00 from our Outreach budget.
- The families are paying their own way to get there.
- The money will be used for the work done in the Bahamas.
- Pastor Stubbs offers the Bible School every week of the summer. He recruits people from different churches, giving them a safe place to come and help put on the VBS.

- There is a long history between Florida and that kind of exchange.
- Is \$2500.00 too much?
- Drew motioned/Ken seconded for money to be approved for mission trip. All approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.