

**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL**

*Meeting Minutes January 15, 2015*

**Opening:** Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:04 p.m. on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer lead by Eddie Pipkin.

**Attendees:** John Gordon, Gary Daniels, Drew Emerson, Ken White, Pat Ambrose, Cris Williams, Janice Adams, Eddie Pipkin, Aaron Rowe, Octavious King, Rostam Kondolojy, Julie Chatfield.

**Approval of November Minutes**

- Julie Chatfield emailed November Minutes in advanced for review.
- Cris asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Pat motions to approve and Drew seconds the motion.
- November 2014 Minutes unanimously approved and are now posted on the website.

**Finance:** John Gordon- Handouts included.

- 2015 Budget complete and approved by Finance Committee.
- Quick review of December 2014 Budget.
- Note that we still owe \$25,000.00 from the 2014 budget to the United Methodist savings account.
- The group reviewed a comparison of the 2014 vs. 2013 budget. The current 2014 report does not include the SOM income or expenses.
- Aaron inquired if there were any drivers to the **net income** picture. John replied that our costs were higher. The finance committee will do a complete analysis of our shortfall in 2014 for the next meeting. Giving does continue to increase but costs for Ministry continue to rise.
- As we head into 2015 we are able to compare our budget with a 4-year comparative history.
- Make a note that we have income that does offset expenses for missions.
- Drew inquired if the **youth budget** is reflecting that the youth can expect to spend \$18,000.00 more than what they are expected to raise? John concurred and explained that there are additional costs offset by income. The possible deficit in youth is possibly due to expenses being higher than anticipated. It was recommended to have a tighter control on the administrative and financial side of youth, but also get more participants. Cris is working directly with Brandon to provide some guidance for him. Drew inquired about the Youth Budget again for clarity. John clarified that they budget is \$42,000 plus \$17,000.00. In 2014 the expenses were higher than that.
- **Connectional giving** is a disappointment for the financial committee. The finance committee plans to tackle why we fell short last year and how to make improvement.
- Where does the income from the **leased property** go? John replied that it is being set aside in a separate account to be used as a reserve that will hopefully be added to the left over SOM monies. We anticipate the lot being leased only through April 2015.
- Our trending indicates that though our **revenues are up**, every line **expenses are also up** way more than the giving is up and that is where the challenge is.
  - Every ministry area is encouraged to turn in all receipts in effort to keep accurate track of ministry costs.
  - Gary was concerned that we are assuming income increases that may not be supported?
  - John agreed that the Finance committee must be on top of the budget at every single quarter.
- Drew reiterated that money will not be spent on projects not initially proposed in the SOM unless approved by Church Council. John reminded Drew that monies from the lease could be used if necessary at their discretion.

- Octavious assured the council that the Youth will be working very hard to make sure they remain within their budget.
- John recommended that we work on increasing attendance. Eddie said we have to explore ways to keep bodies connected even if they are not in a seat.
- Since the finance committee had already approved the 2015 budget, Council only needed to approve.
- **The 2015 Budget was unanimously approved.**

#### **Imagine No Malaria-** Julie Chatfield

- Julie shared her discussion with the Conference Imagine No Malaria representative.
- There is a conference wide push to continue raising funds to end Malaria.
- Churches all over Florida are being asked to take the project on as a mission focus.
- Julie referenced an upcoming United Methodist Conference wide Saturday Pancake Breakfast to be held on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to support the cause.
- Julie recommends that Peace take on this project.
- Peace church will also be hosting Love Letters on Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> and information will be passed out during Biker Sunday for those who may wish to contribute.
- The Council agreed that this would be a worthy project for Peace to support.
- Octavious questioned if we had thought about doing community groups where everyone comes together for more personal small group studies. Eddie explained that we do offer small groups, but that currently we are bit stale. It's particularly because we don't have a Lay person to head up this effort.

#### **Pumpkin Patch update-** Julie Chatfield

- Julie shared that we need to submit a ship date for the Pumpkin Patch 2015 and questioned whether or not we wanted to continue offering the Patch.
- Discussion was shared.
- Specifically the pros being that it's a great outreach, and the cons being that our church family isn't always available to sell the pumpkins.
- It was recommended that Julie confirm a ship date, but to also pursue this conversation closer to October.

#### **Strategic Planning -** Gary Daniels

- Gary addressed that now is the time to gain momentum and put together a strategic plan for our church.
- He is not referring to creating a new Mission Statement or Vision, but picking up with the action plan that will allow us to move forward.
- The questions he would like answered is how do we get people excited, where do we want to go with the assets we've got, and what is action the plan going to be?
- Eddie suggested we add how to get the church to evolve and to stay connected with those, even if they do not come to the worship building.
- More people are asking about being plugged in, but the challenge is to allow it to happen and be clear about what it is we need to get done.
- We need to duplicate ourselves in all areas of ministry.
- Gary repeated what he felt the council was suggesting in effort to take precise action.

- The council recommended that we build a team from a core group already involved, to come up with a plan. Then create filters to help identify and focus resources that align with the vision and strategy. This filter will also help assess our needs and challenges we face while making decisions.
- Also, if people aren't hearing the vision, then it's not going to happen.
- Rostam suggested that we might be complicating a simple situation by making too many filters.
- We have a vision, so let's make sure it's apparent in everything we do.
- We may know what we are known for, but does the greater community?

**Communication** - Larry Meyer (absent, but handout attached)

**Staff Parish**- Aaron Rowe

- We had our first meeting of the year and reviewed the church profile, which is due at the end of the month. Update was made.
- There is a new method of pastor evaluation. Certain folks are selected to give feedback on the pastor which makes for a lot less of an administrative evaluation process.
- Jenny and the preschool board will be conducting an employment search for an employee who is retiring. If they decide to widen their search outside of our building, we suggested checking with SPRC to make sure it's consistent with our public facing vehicles. Does this sound like good advice for Jenny and her board? All agreed yes.

**Trustees** - Drew

- Our leased piece of property will be demobilizing and moving out sometime in April. Trustees have not yet met, but will be brainstorming ideas on how to best utilize the leased space and possibly continue to generate revenue. Does the council have any suggestions? There was a concern on zoning to which Drew agreed to secure zoning guidelines.
- Once the chairs come, the Trustees don't have any more projects due to resources vs. expenses. Does anyone foresee a problem with this lull in activity?
- The next project is the bathroom remodel but we want to clear the cost of the chairs before we begin the project, which will take some time.
- Eddie heard we weren't getting new tables? Drew responded that this was correct because of revenue.
- It was suggested we figure out lighting problems in the worship space along with the prospect of moving the cross to a more prominent position. Eddie suggested he would bring the cross relocation up in Worship planning.
- It was recommended that during the lull in projects to share before and after photos to keep people feeling excited. Members of the council were willing to share before and after photos.

### **Missions-** Pat Ambrose

- Our next Mission meeting will be Wednesday January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. We will cover what we are doing and put more effort into figuring out how we can communicate well and plug people in.
- We would like to invest in a Peace t-shirt for mission projects so people know who we are.
- Eddie shared about All Pro Dad, an event that is currently run by Casa de Paz. Since Casa de Paz will be relocating to Kissimmee, they would like to pass along this event at Wyndham Lakes to us. Though we cannot specifically promote our church during the breakfast, it's clear that it is the church that hosts it. It's a great outreach opportunity. The principal at Wyndham Lakes is already excited about the prospect of us doing this. We are taking a group to visit the school during the next event on Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.
- We are also looking at doing the cross walk again and hoping to get a couple other churches involved as well.
- Our next outreach event is Biker Sunday.

### **Worship-** Eddie Pipkin

- We are currently doing a series for Lent revolving around the musical Godspell
- During worship, we are also trying to give families tools that involve all ages.
- We are making progress with this initiative.

### **Youth-** Octavious King

- The Youth Room is finally finished.
- Brandon has started to delegate.
- We have a couple of trips on the horizon and are making a big effort not to go over the budget.
- We want to have a youth challenge/youth fit date something like a track and field day. This pulls parents from the church and helps keep them involved.
- We are short staffed with counselors so if you know of someone who wants to be a counselor, have them come and check us out.
- Come to Youth Worship and get to know the kids and see what we do.
- Brandon has also changed the Sunday night format which has been a huge improvement. It's been easier from a counselor standpoint starting with dinner at 5:30 and worship at 5:45, then small groups.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.