

# PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL

## *Meeting Minutes November 6th, 2014*

**Opening:** Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:03 p.m. on November 6th, 2014 at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer led by Larry Myers.

**Attendees:** Gary Daniels, Drew Emerson, Ken White, Larry Myers, John Gordon, Julie Chatfield, Cris Williams, Tom Acey, Janice Adams, Peggy Sousa, Faye Myers, Pat Ambrose.

### **Approval of April Minutes**

- Julie Chatfield emailed September 2014 minutes in advance for review.
- Cris asked for motion to approve the minutes. Ken made the motion. Peggy seconded the motion.
- September 2014 Minutes unanimously approved and are now posted on the website.

### **A. Lay Leadership - Larry Myers**

- Larry shared the final list of Peace Church Leadership in preparation for Church Conference. The list still has a few vacancies, but we are optimistic of our new volunteers.
- There was discussion that perhaps the Trustee Class dates could possibly be incorrect. Drew and Larry agreed to review with Jana to clarify.
- There was some question about Sharee Schaffer, Children's Home Rep, and whether or not she has permanently moved. Larry to validate and correct prior to Sunday.

### **B. SPRC - Peggy Sousa**

- Peggy introduced Jana Hall to the Church Council and asked for her to share her witness and call to ministry. Jana particularly feels called to Ministry for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and she shared her journey to date. (Peggy agreed to share a video Jana provided to the Staff Parish Committee for more detailed information about her goals.) Jana is attending Vanderbilt Seminary.
- Questions/Responses:
  - Drew asked where she expected to do this ministry and Jana replied in a parish setting.
  - Jana has interned with Peggy Johnson in Pennsylvania in one of our UMC that is entirely deaf and hard of hearing.
  - She would like to find a similar setting here in Florida and has 8 months left and is planning to graduate in May 2015.
  - Cris asked if she was actively doing work in a church for deaf and hard of hearing. Jana has been talking with her current pastor about how a Ministry like this will work because she has also recognized 60% of the deaf and hard of hearing additionally have some physical disability.
  - Faye recommended she check out a study that was done about including all members of the church. She can find this information at [www.UMW.Org](http://www.UMW.Org)
- Jana agreed to be at the Church Conference on Sunday.
- Peggy recommended we support Jana in her candidacy for ordinance. Motion approved.

### **C. Finance- John Gordon- Handouts attached.**

- Review of financials.
- It should be noted that the Operation element of the Peace Budget did continue to borrow funds from the Savings Account. There is still a balance due to the Savings Account.

- September was a good month, but we still have a loss, which is uncharacteristic of our congregation. The shortfall is because expenses were over our budgeted plan.
  - It was asked if this is a direct reflection of our attendance. John replied that our budgeting process for 2014 was to maintain our anticipated income so, from a contribution standpoint we are over what we expected. It is in fact the expense side that is falling higher than expected.
  - The question was asked specifically where the shortfall was. John replied that the largest hit was taken in the ministry of Youth.
  - What's happening within these Ministries that is making them so different from last year? We are going through and analyzing it as money comes in but in general we have various operating costs that are higher than they were last year.
- Our Connectional giving is under from last year but we remain prayerful that we will be able to make it up the gap by the end of the year. We don't think we will make up the deficit budget by the end of the year.
- The finance committee will be reviewing what's next for the budget this year as well as planning the 2015 budget.
  - We are still waiting for a couple pieces of our budget to come in, but based on our flat level of giving, there is no expectation there will be an increase in tithing.
  - We received a recommendation from someone on the Finance Committee to withhold the first 4 months of the past mortgage payments in order to create a buffer in the operating account. Our goal is to go a whole year without having to borrow from the savings account. The plan is to leave the overage in the operating budget so that there is a surplus at all times. The Finance committee has approved this, but the Finance Committee would like the Church Council to support this decision as well.
  - Gary asked if it benefited us saving all the mortgage monies for a buffer and putting a halt to our project progress. John replied that the objective was to have funds set aside prior to the summer so that we had cash flow.
- SOM Campaign - Drew asked for clarification on fund availability for SOM which was initially planned to be drawn from the past mortgage payment expense beginning in 2015 and set aside for SOM projects.
  - John shared that we won't have anything going into SOM until we have the surplus.
  - The SOM committee discussed reaching out to the congregation but felt that with the stewardship campaign it would create confusion.
  - We plan to have a mortgage shredding party to occur in January. This celebration will tie in with our Mission push.
  - Are we seeing a deficit because things are being fixed? John reiterated that the income is segregated and that we are \$11,000 over in expenses from where we were last year. The reality is that we have higher expenses. Our contributions are not meeting our expense need.
- Tom asked if these operating costs were being made known through the stewardship program. John assured, yes. We are actually working on another update at this time.
- The announcement is not going to be a plea for help. We need to be mindful that though we are hurting for operating expenses. We are in a time and a place where expenses have gone up and we need to maintain our giving to meet those requirements.
- Cris recommended we vote to approve the first 4 months of our past Mortgage Payment to go toward an Operating buffer.
  - Peggy asked if this included the \$18,000.00 the mortgage committee recommended for the staff retirement plan. John replied yes, but that it should be planned for in 2016.
  - If we have the reserve in place, there is a better chance the available mortgage monies will be allocated for the respective needs.

- The objective is not to overspend the money but to have 4 months worth of reserve which will allow us to maintain the cash flow.
- Cris again asked all in favor of approving the finance committees recommendation of using the 4 months of our past mortgage payment toward an Operations Account Buffer. All approved.

#### **D. Stewardship- Gary Daniels**

- We are using a low-key approach this year.
- Tom Wilkinson has done a great job putting together the brochure and gathering the information we are getting from the conference.
- When does the Stewardship campaign start? This Sunday, 11/6/2014.

#### **E. Trustee Update- Drew Emerson**

- Remaining in 2014 we are looking to install light fixtures for the sconces and we are waiting on the chairs. We hope to have them by Christmas.

#### **F. Mission- Pat Ambrose**

- Plans to have another Pow Wow around the campfire to make sure we aren't missing someone's passion.
- They have a new view of mission because of their small groups book study, "The Hole In Our Gospel" The book puts missions into perspective. Their next study will be " Toxic Charity".
- Our M.A.P. program is an example of where we are teaching people dependency. We aren't really fixing anything.
- No More Malaria was discussed. We are being asked by the District to set a collection goal for 2015 and to turn it in to the Conference. It was recommended to set a goal of one net per member with the hopes of doing a surplus. There is discussion of LeeAnn hosting a Valentine's Day event.

#### **G. UMW- Faye Myers**

- UMW are getting together 12 food boxes for families in need this Thanksgiving.
- Surprisingly we didn't have enough names so if you know of a need, let Jana Hart know.
- It was recommended to get names from any of the area High Schools.

#### **H. Church Conference – Leeann's 2015 Salary Recommendation**

- Staff Parish recommended 2% increase for all staff including Leeann's.
- Finance Committee reviewed the 2% recommendation and advises that we can afford to provide 2% to the staff, but not Leeann
- Larry, John and Peggy all shared that Leeann was happy to forego her raise if the staff could get their 2%
- After some discussion Cris asked for a vote on the recommendation to keep Leeann's 2015 salary the same as 2014. Unanimous agreement. Cris to advise Jana so the paperwork for Church Conference could be updated.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm

Our next meeting is not scheduled but will be held to approve the 2015 Budget