

# PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL

*Meeting Minutes –October 25, 2012*

## **Opening:**

Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:08 p.m. on October 25th at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer lead by Leeann Inman.

## **Members Present:**

Cris Williams, Julie Chatfield, John Gordon, Leeann Inman, Janice Adams, Jeff Sparks, Helen Gacula, Larry Myers, Gary Daniels.

### **A. Approval of April Minutes**

- Julie emailed August meeting minutes in advance for review.
- Cris asked for motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Sparks motioned and Janice Adams seconded. August Minutes unanimously approved.

### **B. Budget – John Gordon (Handout attached)**

- **Recap of 2012 YTD:**
  - The Highlights handout explains that we have spent over \$22,091.00 from last year.
  - The asterisk (\*) indicates that it includes income generated in 2012. (For example the youth generated \$12,000.00 income, which is income they raised against expenses.)
  - This new way of looking at the budget shows the income in the income line and the expense in the expense line giving us a visual measuring stick.
  - We do see contributions continuing to grow.
  - Many of our budget areas are controllable areas.
  - Our budget is developed as a Net Budget.
  - The Finance Committee discussed Connectional Giving and decided to hold off on our next payment to see how the rest of the year pans out. We have paid the required amount towards Connectional Giving and are waiting to see if we can pay any additional, which was initially budgeted for 2012. We are caught up on all Connectional giving, including the shortages from previous years.
- **2013 Budget Review:**
  - There are a few changes reflected in the 2013 budget.
  - John was impressed with Staff and area Leaders in providing detailed budget requests.
  - The 2013 Budget is showing an increase of 2.19% over the 2012 Budget.
  - As we prepared this year's budget, we assumed that contributions were going to be 2% greater than last year.
  - We are also depending on contributions increasing between now and December due to seasonality. So at the end of the year, we assume the gap between our budget and actual will be smaller.
- **2013 Budget Questions / Discussion:**
  - Gary asked why the alarm maintenance line was drastically different. Jeff responded that last year's budget request included possible security cameras being installed.
  - It was noted the internet services was increased due to our new web-site, Radiant.

- Tech Support requested \$52,350.00 which was not approved. This is a crucial expense for Technical upgrades that we are not financially able to support at this time.
- There is a Technical Support request to secure the speakers as it is a safety issue.
- We are also looking for ways to make contributing easier such as paying on the website and possible kiosks.
- John was impressed with the mission areas making tremendous progress.
- We did not raise salaries at all this year.
- We also have a possibility of renting our property out to Hunters Creek Association in exchange for our HO fees to be reduced.
- The income for the construction site has generated \$4,700.00 and they anticipate work will continue with the duration longer than expected. The money is being set aside for future building maintenance issues such as air conditioning.
- Concern was shared about the last Staff increase. Leann agreed that Staff increases are important. She tries to keep the staff supported with time off when needed. Staff for the most part is happy.
- **2013 Budget Approval**
  - Jeff Sparks motioned and Gary Daniels seconded to pass the proposed 2013 budget. Budget unanimously approved.

### **C. Online Giving:**

- Authorize.net will be our account holder. It is ready to go upon approval. [Approved]
- It offers safe, efficient online giving for a reasonable cost.
- We opted for the more secure services even though it is a higher cost. We know it's important and plan to utilize and can assess the incremental value vs. risk in the future.
- We will not be able to accept American Express.
- People have the option to have reoccurring withdrawals.
- We looked into Kiosks but they will cost around \$8,000-\$9,000. It was recommended to review Kiosks further as our church size may not support the volume necessary to make it effective. John agreed, but wants to provide many relevant giving options for our congregation.
- Jana is already getting many calls about being able to give online and we anticipate a growth in giving by about 12-14% with electronic options.
- We will also be able to have campaigns, sell books, offer a store, and allow families to pay for mission trips, or other activities too.
- It also provides an accurate way to keep track of income and expenses.

### **D. Web Advertising:**

- In reference to last meetings question on Web Advertising, Cindy would like templates and disclaimers in order to post on the website.
- Does the Council agree to web advertising and if so, we need a committee to research and prepare a proposal.
- Gary disagrees with web advertising. It's has a branding impact and could come across to someone in the wrong way. He also believes that the money would not be worth the effort and hassle.
- Cris mentioned that we didn't get far enough into the discussion to decide whether or not this was something we wanted to do. Cris asked for a volunteer to comprise a committee to investigate this and report back to the Council in January.
- Larry agreed that this was part of his role in Lay Leadership and Communications and accepted the responsibility of putting together a team, moving the issue forward.
- Larry asked for stipulations from the current prospective advertiser and Jeff agreed to email Larry examples they provided.

#### **E. Stewardship Campaign: Leeann Inman**

- 'We are Peace' is the theme which is lifting up the distinctive way Peace forwards God's mission in this time and place. It lasts four weeks.
- We will be sending out our stewardship letter on November 7<sup>th</sup> to include our story and to encourage members to fulfill their membership vows by giving. It can also be filled out online.
- We will not be having a stewardship Sunday but encouraging members to bring in their pledges as soon as possible, asking Staff and Leadership to set the example.
- We will be celebrating Week 1 - Diversity and inclusion, Week 2 - Mission on All Saints Sunday with a video of our mission work, Week 3 - Gary will be preaching on 'Futurity' - looking into the future and investing in God's eternal future, and Week 4 - Creativity where members of the congregation will be writing/performing music, drama and poetry.

#### **F. Worship**

- We will welcome new members on December 9<sup>th</sup> with a special appearance by the Bishop.
- Cindy and Janet Wheatley are helping Leeann revise and revamp our New Membership classes. It will be more specific and include serving opportunities.
- The response to our picture directory was positive as well, which is a good sign of a healthy church.

#### **G. Final Business:**

- Talk up Pumpkins. Pumpkin patch open until Halloween.
- Trustees are having a church wide workday on November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- We have lots of Boy Scout projects on the horizon. A couple of which will be done within the next few months due to the age of the Boy Scouts.

#### **H. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm and ended in prayer**

#### **I. Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2013**