

# PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL

## *Meeting Minutes December 19, 2013*

**Opening:** Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:07 p.m. on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer led by Leeann Inman.

**Attendees:** Larry Myers, Faye Myers, Janice Adams, Cris Williams, Drew Emerson, John Gordan, Julie Chatfield, Ken White, Leeann Inman, Eddie Pipkin and Gary Daniels.

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

- Julie Chatfield emailed October and November meeting minutes in advance for review.
- Cris asked for motion to approve the minutes. In both cases, John Gordan made the motion and Janice Adams seconded the motion.
- October and November Minutes unanimously approved and are now posted on the website.

### **B. Communications - Larry Myers** (Documents attached)

- Larry experimented with advertising on Facebook and setup advertising parameters which started in Hunters Creek expanding a 10 mile radius.
- A graph shows a measurement of 14,000 impressions, meaning that 14,000 people saw our information while on Facebook.
- Drew asked if there was a way to track the results to which there is not.
- It was suggested to add something to our attendance cards and Leeann added that she does ask New Members how they heard about Peace.
- John shared about a conference sponsored by Expedia regarding social media. His company sent out 30,000 emails that included an offer to which 10,000 positively responded. Social media works.
- Larry was encouraged to continue with this experiment and report his findings..

### **C. Finance - John Gordon** (Documents attached)

- **Financial Review**
  - Quick review of financials through November.
  - John noted we were ahead of budget in 2013
  - Drew questioned what happens to the surplus if an event ends with a surplus. John answered that it depended upon what the person in charge of that event decided. If an event reoccurs, then the surplus stays with that event. If the event does not reoccur, then it can end up in the general fund pending the approval of the event coordinator or it can be allocated to another specific need pending Finance final approval.
- The **Audit** was completed for a low price of \$1000.00. We had a good audit. Gloria has addressed all suggestions and issues pertaining to the audit. Finance unanimously voted to make audits an annual process, seeking assistance through the conference and always using an outside CPA.
- Finance looks forward to paying off the mortgage in 2014.
- **2014 Budget**
  - The staff and leaders were congratulated for excellent budget proposals.
  - All proposed budgets were accepted as recommended.
  - The approved budget includes a 4% increase for staff.
  - Appreciation was also shared for the finance committees effort and approval of the 2014 budget.

- Ken White shared concern that his proposed budget did not include the major repair necessary for the projector in MPR. John reassured us that the 2014 Budget was an operating budget and that the regular income of the church could never absorb nor is it intended to absorb the upcoming large maintenance expenses.
- John reminded Drew that resources are available for immediate Trustee use and are located in a special account designated for Trustees and the maintenance of our building. These resources are not included in the 2014 Operating Budget but are located in a separate account.
- John explained that the Finance Committees job was not to approve or disapprove a project, but rather find the funds or say “no” there are no funds for whatever is requested.
- **The 2014 Budget was recommended to the Council by Finance and was unanimously approved.**
- Drew recommended the need for a rigorous approval process for spending money from our saving accounts and would like to memorialize a procedure to approve capital expenditures.
- Gary asked if we evolved with numbers from Consecration Sunday. John and Leeann both agreed that we continued to be ahead of last year.
- Drew recognized and appreciated the many volunteers that help to keep our church in working order.
- John recapped where resources will be obtained for sudden and expected building repairs and maintenance. Document attached.
- Leeann mentioned that the Farmers Market was not as successful as they had hoped and asked for prayers.
- **Technical Equipment Upgrade**
  - The technical equipment needs to be addressed and we can either try to replace as is and maintain (band aid) or spend approximately \$30,000 to upgrade to current technology.
  - Gary asked for further explanation of the twin panel L.E.D. system. Ken replied that they intend to get rid of screen and projector and add L.E.D. panels. Gary shared a concern that L.E.D. systems could create problems and more expense. Ken reassured that these were not video walls but rather electronic panels eliminating common L.E.D. systematic problems.
  - John suggested sharing the technical presentation of the equipment so that many people can make a final decision taking the burden from the few currently in the loop.
  - John shared a challenge offered to the Finance committee pending Council support that will match a \$7500.00 donation intended to help with the technical equipment. This is a time sensitive offer and approval needed to happen immediately.
  - Eddie questioned if we were voting to complete a specific option or if we were just voting to get it started. John answered that we were voting to support this person’s intention of improving our technology but that we were not voting on the specified system or outcome.
  - John intends to ask a select group of members to participate in the challenge so the full amount won’t come directly from what is already on hand.
  - Drew on behalf of the Trustees shared a concern about spending more than we have and cautioning us that \$30,000.00 for a video system was a huge burden on our resources. He was concerned that we have already irresponsibly dipped into the reserve and reminded us of upcoming, necessary, and expensive repairs.
  - Ken asked Drew of his recommendation if the tech system needed immediate repair. Drew recommended we use more affordable options, but not the \$30,000.00 option.
  - Ken cautioned with Council support that the cheaper option is more like a bandage.
  - Council approved to support the matching \$7500.00 challenge and to improve our current technical equipment to further enhance worship. John was pleased with the permission to accept the gift and will begin working on the capital campaign to support this offer.

- John recommended assisting in these costly building repairs that we prepare a giving campaign for all repairs. The finance committee recommends this at the beginning of the year to keep from diverting funds from the giving plate.
- John also recommended we designate specific individuals from a variety of locations to help distribute resources once our mortgage is paid off.

#### **Trustees – Drew Emerson**

- Drew and the Trustees have created a list of vital repairs and their proposed cost. Handout attached.
- A discussion was shared regarding the cost and priority of these repairs.
- Drew continued to represent the Trustees and their concern for the need of a large amount of resources to complete dire building maintenance and repairs.
- Drew also cautioned that money needed to be spent wisely regardless of the need, due to the large amount necessary to make major, mandatory repairs.
- John reassured Drew and the Trustees that there are currently resources available generated from the construction company renting our property and the Farmers Market. Though it wasn't enough to cover all the major purchases, it was available and to be used for building repairs and maintenance when needed.

#### **D. Worship- Leeann**

- We are starting a new sermon series, Living Upside down. Based on the Sermon on the Mount and the Beattitudes. This begins after Epiphany and carries us through Lent.
- The Program Staff which includes Leeann, Eddie, Julie and Brandon, will begin meeting on a bi-weekly basis to assist with communication and synergy.
- A vision and planning meeting with the entire staff will also occur. Updates will be shared during future council meetings.

#### **E. Other Items**

- Leeann shared of an inappropriate, sexual in nature, incident that occurred within one of our chartered Boy Scout Troops on our property. Leeann reassured us that the incident was being handled appropriately by all leaderships personnel involved.
- The church also received a special and precious gift from Bob and Jean Schall- a page out of the 1540 Great Bible- The story of the prodigal son. It is framed and will be hung where all can share.
- It was questioned if there were minutes from Charge Conference. Drew wanted to know who was elected to replace the four openings on the Trustees committee.
- It was suggested to have a more organized presentation of our Charge Conference for future meetings. Leeann agreed to research additional elder options.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:04 p.m.