

**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes October 19, 2015

Opening: Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2015 at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer.

Attendees: John Gordan, Drew Emerson, Markita Cooper, LeeAnn Inman, Aaron Rowe, Pat Ambrose, Eddie Pipkin, Rostam Kondolojy, Ken White, Gary Daniels, Cris Williams

Approval of July Minutes

- Julie Chatfield emailed minutes in advanced for review.
- Cris asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Drew moved to approve the minutes and Ken White seconded the motion.
- March 2015 Minutes unanimously approved and are now posted on the website.

Worship / Lay Leadership Update:

- Markita shared experience at annual conference.
- There was spirited disagreement at the conference about inclusion (gay marriage and supreme court decisions and where Methodist church will land), thus election of delegates will be important. Florida will have a diverse slate of delegates.
- Bob Bushong's installation service was well attended and a powerful service
- LeeAnn shared that we are finishing 'Soul Shift' series and the next series will be 'Treasure'. Treasure will align with stewardship campaign, which kicks off on November 1 with Bob Bushong preaching at all services.
- Note: Daylight savings is November 1.
- Cris asked who was leading stewardship campaign and LeeAnn shared there is no formal plan, but DINKS are creating a video and others will provide witness.

Trustees: Drew Emerson

- Bathroom remodel will kick off in one week. There will be no water on Monday (office will be closed/preschool closed). Demo will be Tuesday-Friday. DINKS will paint on November 1, and installation of new fixtures will be November 2-6. (including replacement of two water fountains and removal of one in MPR)
- Cost estimated at \$52,000: SOM estimate ~ \$65K but only have \$50K in SOM account. Plan to use Trustee reserves and as contributions for SOM come in, funds will be replaced. (colors, fixtures, and styles available for review if interested). John confirmed that we anticipate enough funds to cover (see below)
- Trustees discussed and approved replacement of spotlights in MPR. Original estimate given and approved was for two movable lights at \$4,000 but after church council discussion we agreed to install 4 movable lights and leverage/adjust existing lights. Drew will advise Trustees

Finance: John Gordon- Financial Handout included.

- SOM: Operating budget provided \$22K to date to SOM. Anticipate additional \$28K to SOM. There are \$18K outstanding pledges in 2015. Finance committee plans to remind/communicate to those outstanding.
- John approached Pre-School asking for a larger contribution and advising that we are delaying bathroom remodel (in classrooms). They were gracious and indicated that they will work on the

increased contribution in next years budget. Also they noted concern about the playground and that they will need to invest next year. (They will contact Drew.)

- September looked a little better and we made up some ground in our deficit. Eddie indicated that attendance is down about 10% (9:30 and 11:00 services).
 - Gary asked what we are doing to address the gap in attendance, giving, and financial management. All of these are indicators so would like to look trending, forecasting, contributions, etc. and continue to monitor. John indicated he and Gloria were working to setup trending in next years budget.
 - Eddie shared his perspective that people give if they are connected and we need to focus on building spiritual formation and the financial concerns will take care of themselves. Eddie shared that we have left our spiritual formation role empty all year and 'that's a problem'.
 - There was a comment made that 'our church is struggling'. Pat specifically shared that he believes our church is divided. Discussion followed that others have an opposing opinion and have positive things to say, but we need to put together a plan for staff and leadership to address the financial status and attendance, including market based on our strengths. Data can help identify areas of opportunity and Gary offered to 'crunch numbers' to find some indicators
 - It was noted that there is some concern that the new church (by 7-11) could impact us, even though we believe it is a different style church (more evangelical)
 - **ACTION:** Eddie indicated he knows attendance numbers and will get with Jana so she can provide them to John and Gary. They will evaluate/crunch the numbers.
 - **ACTION:** Get Vital Statistics from Jana and provide to John and Gary so they can include as additional data points

Staff Parish – Aaron Rowe

- LeeAnn and staff members were dismissed from meeting.
- Church Council discussed and agreed on LeeAnn's salary for 2016.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 p.m.