

**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL**

***Meeting Minutes August 18, 2016***

**Opening:** Gary Daniels called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. We opened with prayer.

**Attendees:** Gary Daniels, Pat Ambrose, Drew Emerson, Larry Myers, LeeAnn Inman , Becky Brashears, Cat Bruce, Aaron Rowe, Rostam Kondoloyj, Julie Chatfield, Eddie Pipkin, Faye Myers.

**Approval of December Minutes**

- Still waiting for June Minutes to approve.

**General Discussion:**

Cell Tower – Gary

- We have approval from the Hunters Creek HOA to build the cell tower.
- We have a fully executed lease with the cell phone company.
- We are now submitting for Orange County zoning with the anticipation there will be no re-rebuttal.
- We've already received \$1000.00 that allows them to use our land, and as soon as zoning approves, which is a 90-day process, we can begin construction.
- We will receive payments as soon as construction begins.
- The final monthly payment is \$1800.00 with a 2% increase per year.
- The lease is 10 years.
- There is no maintenance, upkeep, or expense except possible taxes on the piece of land due to gaining revenue.
- The cell tower will help us make much more money over a longer period of time.
- We are updating the congregation at all three services this Sunday. (August 22, 2016)
- We are going to incorporate the congregational meeting held several years ago to support it's approval.
- Leeann commended Drew and the Trustees for their careful and prayerful support of the church.
- Drew promised to pass along the words of encouragement to the Trustees.
- The council discussed ways to leverage the income for the sake of ministry of the church.
- The Trustees offered suggestions.
- The Trustees recommended 50% of the income for the reserve fund hoping to maintain or upgrade the church with things not a part of the normal wear and tear.
- The Trustees also recommend 10% be tithed to missions and 40% be given to the general operation fund to be used for staff augmentation.
- Gary noted that survey results show attendance numbers declining.
- One of the biggest benefits of the cross is a marketing benefit.
- Marketing should be a part of how the income is utilized.
- Conversation continued regarding income.
- Motion of ALLOCATION OF FUNDS:
  - The Trustees recommend that 50% of the income should go toward the Trustee Reserve Fund, 40% will be added to the General Operating Fund and used toward Staff Augmentation and 10% will be tithed to missions.
  - After discussion by Church Council, it was decided that for the first calendar year of receiving lease payments, that 50% of the income should go to the Church's marketing needs.

- The Church Council's reasoning behind this is that the cell tower / cross will be a marketing "tool" and hopefully will draw people to our campus.
  - Therefore, the income from the cell tower can/should be used to supplement that "marketing" effort to help grow our membership.
  - Church Council agreed that beginning in January 2018, a minimum of 50% of the lease payment amounts will be contributed to the Trustee Reserve Fund.
  - This will always be a sure base minimum that can be used towards costly insurance deductibles and continued quality care of our building.
  - The Finance Committee and Church Council will evaluate how to designate the other 50% of the lease payments on a yearly basis.
  - In summary: 2017 = 50% to marketing, 40% to general operating fund, 10% tithes, 2018 and beyond= 50% to Trustee Reserve Fund, 50% designated as determined by Finance and Church Council on an annual basis.
- At one point there was no money to fix things and we are determined to keep that from happening again.
  - We would still have to figure out a budget number for unforeseen repairs but there was not a recommended amount.
  - It was suggested to set an amount and once the amount was met to disperse the money elsewhere with the caveat to modify the guidelines when necessary.
  - If there is a reserve fund, money can be invested and grow.
  - How do we record the vote to ensure future teams can find the information?
  - When should we start using the money? It was suggested to spend as we go.
  - Allocation of funds motioned by Gary and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Drew. Motion passed.

#### Survey Results:

- Gary- passed out a copy of the updated attendance noting we are down by another 8%.
- This says that we need to increase our base.
- Eddie mentioned that we at one point started counting the numbers differently. The change was that we were counting children in the worship attendance figures twice. Now we are not. This could be reflected on the survey.
- Regardless, the point is we need to reach out more.
- It was mentioned that the downward trend has stopped and we are leveling out.
- We have opportunities that show we can do better.
- There are several phases of getting feedback starting with the survey.
- IF you were here at the last meeting, the results were not filtered.
- We do not want to distribute the survey results broadly and we don't want it out where it doesn't belong.
- How do we plan to get the survey's to the people who do need to see them, but who are not here? For example, staff members. Ask Gary or Aaron and they will get copies out to whoever needs them.
- Note the survey has two cuts. Today it is cut by the service that they attend, the second is by those attending Peace and those not attending.
- We need a focus session before we get into the focus groups.
- Our Council focus meeting is scheduled for Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- We then want to meet with the church. The objective is to go deeper to help us understand better.
- IT should be an open time for Peace members to talk.
- We should publish times and do a combination of open forums and closed groups where relationships have already been established.
- Suggested Groups: UMW, Children's and Youth Ministry Teams, and Bob's group.

- Success comes with what we do as we follow through. And then sustain.
- Send questions to Gary and Aaron. They will get surveys out to anyone who asks.

### **Marketing: Gary**

- There is already some designated funds for marketing. Cris was going to be working on marketing but doesn't feel she has the spare the time. Gary is willing to work with Eddie to consider a marketing strategy.
- There are things we can do socially that we want to get going.
- Is it ok to start using the funds? Yes.
- We probably want to put together a team of people to discuss this in more detail?
- Larry and Pat agreed to help.

### Biker Sunday:

- Do we still want to do Biker Sunday?
- Eddie has run it for the last 4 years, but no one else wants to take ownership and it takes away from what he has to do on a regular basis.
- Keep in mind also, we aren't funding it realistically, we spent even less running it this past year. It was a terrific day of worship but a lesser expense based on what people donate.
- Many expressed that Biker Sunday would be missed. But also do not wish to contribute to the cause. This is the case across all ministries.
- It was mentioned, we do get members from Biker Sunday. It can be evangelistic even though it's not the purpose of it.
- Love for the event was expressed. There may not be a better idea, but for what it's worth, it's part of our identity.
- Maybe we need to change the focus of our events.
- Are we using the volunteer hours for the right thing or perhaps we could maximize the Sunday somehow.
- What if we spent time in a smaller group thinking of ideas to get a bigger bang for the buck?
- Is there a variant of it that will help us reach more? Part of the equation is that people come from quite a distance and they aren't coming here to join the church.
- Maybe we should consider something with the apartment complex across the street? How do we get them to take the ten steps across the streets to get here? The end result should be reaching out to our neighbors. The point is to serve geographically. We are right in the center of a need, just the next block over.
- There are people around us that aren't being served and a way to get them on campus.
- Are we past the point of needing to make a decision about Biker Sunday? Can we explore a little more or is it too late?
- If we are going to change it at all, it's probably a little too late.
- What about a food truck option? This fix is not free but we could use some of the expense from the budget to help off-set the cost of the food.
- Can we assume Biker Sunday is happening next year? IN parallel can we look at ways to incrementally make it a kid focus? I know it's bigger. Is that the right approach?
- Another suggestion included a Sunday where we tied two events and made it one big outreach-like a Peace Palooza?
- Do we have the resources needed to get it done?

- We talked about combining the community with other activities that we do but no one was interested in taking the lead on the idea. No one spoke up.
- Drew said he would round up a group to brainstorm around what used to be biker Sunday.
- WE may have to change the date. The bikers already have it on their calendar.
- Eddie commented he didn't mind doing the work but couldn't do it and then do other things.

**Trustees:** Drew

- We replaced cabinets and sinks, and unexpectedly got the bonus of the cabinets for free.
- They had accidentally made all the materials, but we weren't ready to afford it. We offered at least to pay cost. The cabinet company wrote it off as a charitable contribution.
- We also had a problem with the flagpole. Note to staff and volunteers not to pull the rope out of the flagpole because the rope has to be rethreaded, which is difficult.
- The sinkhole on the north side of the property is being fixed.
- There is also a plan fix the crumbling storm water pipe tomorrow.
- To wrap things up, before the end of the year, we plan to replace the front door.
- Some of trustees want to put a standard size door with as side panel. There is still debate on whether that's the right thing to do

**Staff Parish:** Aaron

- We will be doing our annual staff appreciation activities in October.

**Worship:** Leeann

- We continue to have computer issues.
- Can we consider the replacement of the computer as part of our SOM campaign?
- There was discussion of Aaron replacing the hard drive. The needs have not outpaced the computer, and sometimes you can replace it with a hard drive.
- He was proceeding with the project but was still tracking down the license for Media Shout.
- Replacing the whole computer is certainly another option.
- What is the cost of replacing the drive?
- It's no cost to the church. It's a donated part and time to get it installed.
- It is unknown how much time it will afford us, but if it works, time could be substantial.
- Jana was lobbying for a new computer. I know we talked about replacing a hard drive, but is that the fix? Or is that limping along?
- It could well be the fix, though replacing all of it future proofs if for us for years longer.
- Let's go with temporary fix and then status quo with the equipment.
- The date to fix it needs to be finalized.
- Everyone can help by *not doing* things on that computer are not related to worship.
- We don't have a lock on the tech booth. We have a password, but a lot of people know the password.
- Thank you Aaron for your time and help.

**Other business:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> but it was recommended to be changed so Marquita could attend, Leeann believes that it would be possible on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m-8:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:03 p.m.

