

# PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL

*Meeting Minutes August 22, 2013*

## **Opening:**

Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:03 p.m. on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer lead by Leeann Inman.

**Attendees:** Kelley Hoskins, John Gordon, LeeAnn Inman, Cris Williams, Julie Chatfield, Ken Carter, Faye Myers, Larry Myers, Brandon Sangster, Theresa Furrey, Drew Emerson, Gary Daniels, Janice Adams, Jana Hart, Eddie Pipkin, Heather Tuel and Dalton Connell

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

- Julie Chatfield emailed April meeting minutes in advance for review.
- Cris asked for motion to approve the minutes. John Gordon motioned and Ken Carter seconded. April Minutes unanimously approved and to be posted on the website.

## **B. Parish Nursing Ministry- Kelley Hoskins (handouts attached)**

- Kelley Hoskins proposed to start a Parish Nursing Ministry at Peace and was seeking church council's approval to proceed with research.
- The purpose of a Parish Nursing Ministry is to focus on the spiritual aspect of a person and provide a holistic approach to nurture a person back to health. A Parish Nursing Ministry would provide things like health and wellness classes and blood pressure screenings or new baby visits.
- Cris questioned if we had a Parish Nursing Ministry in the district? Kelley has found one at Winter Park and intends to discuss the process of starting the Ministry with that person.
- Kelley would also like to take a class to assist with educating her on the process. Her goal is to start this Ministry within a year. Jana suggested accessing the UMC general resources.
- Leeann noted that this Ministry is being offered voluntarily but she supports a possible decision to financially support Kelley's continued learning.
- Liability is a concern needing continued research. Jana mentioned we have Ministry Protection Resources that can assist with questions but noted that all Methodist Churches are self-insured. Drew suggested considering releases.
- Larry advised connecting with the TLC Ministry. Carolyn Strack is the contact volunteer.
- Support for Kelley's endeavor was encouraged. Drew moved to accept the proposal, Ken and John second. Proposal unanimously approved.
- Kelley will come back to church council after further research.

## **C. Trustees - Drew Emerson**

- Drew announced that the Hunters Creek Farmers Market would like to use our property for their Market location.
- The Trustees have researched to include walking the property to discuss Market Location, and have discussed contracts, logistics and advertising with Vincent Bolero, the Market Coordinator.
- The Market would like to use the second row of our parking lot every Saturday to sell their goods and in turn compensate the church with revenue as determined in a mutual agreement. The potential revenue could be around \$1000.00 per month.
- The Market would offer Peace Church income but also exposure, bringing people to our campus who might not otherwise come. The Farmers Market group is also interested and excited to let church groups benefit during Market days, giving us the opportunity to promote our groups.

Leeann sees this as evangelism and a service to the community by providing fresh produce that might otherwise be hard to obtain.

- Trustees had concern of liabilities so asked parish attorneys, Sylvia Ibanez and Tom Acey, to review the vendor contracts. They felt good about the verbiage and made only minor changes.
- Trustees checked with the conference Ministry Protection Services and discovered our ministry protection does cover this sort of activity. It was recommended that the market insure up to \$1 million dollars and the Market agreed to this requirement.
- Concerns were discussed and resolved including: Signage - the Trustees believed temporarily draping a banner over the driveway sign only during the event was acceptable; Use of Facilities – Market Manager would be given a key to allow use of restrooms (volunteer from the church would be available to supervisor if necessary); Power – Market needs a small amount of power, which can be obtained from an outlet on the light poles in the parking lot; Clean Up – Market will remove all trash (not using our dumpsters) and offered a cleaning service on Saturday evening if we needed; Playground will be locked to keep unsupervised children off our property during Market hours; Concern of inappropriate items being sold - Market manager agreed to police the vendors, making sure they were in line with the guidelines.
- We are not properly zoned for this sort of activity so **Drew will pursue getting a zoning exception but it will take some time.** There is a known risk for violating code. John suggests adding a clause in the contract that gives us the right to terminate immediately if we run into zoning issues.
- The plan is to have a 3-month trial period. If it doesn't feel good with either party, after 3 months, the agreement can be terminated. If we both feel positive, we'd continue to stay on a 3-month agreement.
- Gary asked the difference between the scripture where Jesus overturned the tables and Peace offering a weekly Farmers Market. Leeann replied that people were buying doves, lambs and different things for sacrifice, were charged exorbitant prices, and then they didn't get to eat the meat. They were being taken advantage of. This experience can be an incredibly wonderful social time where quality goods are sold for a value. Jana indicated that others have brought up this point.
- Drew proposes we start now and work on the exemption- 3 months of Saturdays without ceasing the use of the property.
- It was approved by Trustees and passed by council that the **Market will start Saturday- August 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- An announcement will be made in church this coming Sunday.

#### **D. Finance Committee – John Gordon** (Handouts attached)

- Review of 2013 Budget.
- We are using a new way of accounting. The handout shows the additional giving to support missions and reflects higher income. The connectional giving is under for the first time in a while which is a reflection of our cash flow.
- **Finance is asking the congregation and leadership to raise \$15,000.00 in the next two weeks.** The offering plate is here tonight for us to set the example. This information is being sent out to the congregation Friday.
- Gloria does a great job on a regular basis. She is a tremendous support to the Youth and makes great decisions.
- The committee is trying to do a better job communicating to the congregation. Faye asked if statements had been sent out. John replied that the 6 month statements went out the middle of July and that was the second statement for the year. We are trying to do this on a quarterly basis.
- Finance is also compiling information for John and Leeann to constantly be reviewed so they can stay on top of expenses and keep the church informed.

- Gary asked the reason for giving being down? John replied he is working on two different reports, which will be available after some additional work. The handouts do not show this data.
- Gary asked if we know how attendance has been this year? LeeAnn feels attendance is probably not up, but stable. We've had new members but Leeann's sense is they are new Christians who are still learning what stewardship means or they are living on the edge.
- Cindy informed us that our spiritual formation effort includes tithing and giving from a Biblical perspective and ends with giving. It's presented as a spiritual practice.
- Jackie Shadrake will provide Financial Peace again in the fall.
- It was noted from Cindy's study group that Stewardship shows up in the Bible frequently. If people are part of study groups it will be evident that it's part of our faith.
- John is seeking to find ways to keep track of attendance and gather better information. There has also been discussion on analyzing the financial reports. **Eddie is working with Jana to help with numbers and data collections regarding attendance. There may be a report available for our next council meeting.**
- Gary asked if the low giving was a reflection of summer and if we anticipate the next part of the year to look better? John agrees that summer is the toughest time, but wants to inform the congregation of our situation.
- Gary mentioned that connectional giving doesn't motivate people. John reassured that this was a special offering that brings us back to speed.
- John said the overall trend proves we lost only \$3,000.00 less than last year.
- Drew mentioned that the trustees have a grave concern about expensive repairs for the future. We don't want to exhaust the additional offering opportunity because we may need it again.
- John stated our goal is to make sure funds are available to meet the ongoing expenses of the church. A reminder that money, coming in from construction next door, is being segregated-giving us a reserve possibly needed for those repairs.
- Gary asked what happened to the reserve savings. John reassured we have it. We just "act" as if the account doesn't exist. The details are as follows: Operational Savings Account - Designated Funds - \$31,172 as of 09/30, Operational Savings Account - Designated Funds - \$30,811 as of 10/31, UM Foundation Savings - \$85,690 as of 9/30 and the UM Foundation Savings - \$86,062 as of 10/31
- Eddie suggested financial request be shared in a separate email. It was agreed.
- The mortgage is scheduled to be paid off in January 2015. Calculating that added income, over a 5-year period, we are looking at a large sum of money. Requests are coming in fast for how it will be used. The general thought is to put a committee together to consider the upcoming use of this money. The committee shall include- Pastor Leeann, Eddie, three members of the congregation, and the heads of each committee. We want a wide range of input and information to help make a formal recommendation. **John made the motion to form this committee, Ken Carter seconded- All agreed. Motion passed.**
- Cindy has brought an opportunity forward regarding a program that allows people to purchase things online and give a portion of the proceeds to benefit our church. It's a micro donation site where you register as an individual and also register the church. People designate donations upon each purchase. The retailer takes less of a profit giving a percentage towards the church. It's easy and can benefit us greatly. **John will send the information to Jana to get the church registered so we can communicate and start using it.**

#### E. Stewardship – Leeann

- Currently we are going through Luke with Scarcity vs. Abundance.
- We are looking toward New Consecration Sunday on November 10th.
- We will meet to discuss recruiting more people to the Stewardship Committee.

- Consecration Sunday is a big celebration where everyone brings his or her gifts. It's a planned program. Janice noticed the curriculum seemed similar to a previous Stewardship program we've done in the past. Leeann agreed it was revamped but the same concept.
- Bonnie, from the Conference, will be coming to help. We don't pay anything for the consultation from Bonnie. She will be coming to preach one of those Sundays.
- We want to have a nice brunch catered on November 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Drew noted that Relay for life was that weekend so Eddie recommended moving Consecration Sunday earlier and suggested November 3<sup>rd</sup>?
- **Leeann agreed to check with Bonnie and the conference and will advise when November 3<sup>rd</sup> is confirmed.**

#### **F. Staff Parish – (no representative)**

- Leeann mentioned a Staff Parish meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **G. Youth- Theresa Furrey**

- Theresa Furrey will now be the Youth Representative at Church Council. Welcome.
- Youth is getting everything geared up for the coming school year to include fundraising to help with missions.
- Cris announced Youth will host a 5K in Hunter's Creek. Bonnie White has been talking to the Hunters Creek Runners Club for support. They are happy to help us in the spring. February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014. Bonnie is getting all the pricing and support and we may have expenses for the space and police to help monitor the event. Bonnie does have to go in front of the HC Homeowners Association to get approval. The hope is in a specific park and sub division where they should have zero questions. The limitation is that only 250 people can sign up and the money will go toward the youth mission trips.
- Brandon advised that the youth will not go on an international mission trip this summer because of funding. He will start making plans and noted the trip to Atlanta last year was a hit.
- Drew commended Brandon and team for the enhancements in the Youth Room.

#### **H. Pumpkin Patch Update- Julie**

- We will continue to offer the Pumpkin Patch. We will shorten the length, hopefully getting our pumpkin delivery around October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- We expect this to be a full church initiative and want the Youth and 45s to work together to unload the pumpkins.
- Tent set up will remain on a Wednesday prior to delivery.
- The big question is division of funds. John recommended splitting it like we did last year. Leeann agreed and supported a portion for emerging missions.
- Julie feels strongly that gaining resources for specific areas of ministry is important and **will research the breakdown from last year and report to council at next meeting.**

#### **I. Communications- Larry Myers (handout attached)**

- We can now look at statistics of website usage. The Event page is being accessed a lot so we want to put all of our news there.
- Larry is working on a Peace Store to sell events as if they were a product.
- We have a group of people who want to create a blog.
- Business Directory / Advertising on the website. Options:
  - Option 1: We can create and manage the directory ourselves with our current system. We could get the added outreach to businesses. We can highlight businesses owned by members. For members we'd have a free listing. External businesses we would charge. We would have to come up with an advertising model. If we charged \$10.00 per month it would help defray the cost of the website. Ken noted we would generate people looking at our website if people

were looking for businesses. We would need someone to spearhead the maintenance of the directory.

- Option 2: Larry suggested having a member's directory to support our members' businesses only. It would be a listing vs. selling of advertisements.
- Council agreed on option 2. **Larry will report back at that next council with this new direction.**

#### **J. Additional Business**

- Eddie advised that we are starting a new worship series called Not a Fan. It's a great book with the premise that Jesus doesn't need fans. There are small group opportunities and we will encourage people to purchase the book and read along. It Kicks off September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- We Serve Weekend are also coming up September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. It's our participation in the District Wide initiative. Including participation from children's, youth group etc.
- We want to become a host site for Stop Hunger. The Annual Conference wants to pack 1 million meals for Stop Hunger. Meal packing for Stop Hunger helps create a family atmosphere because kids of all ages can do it.
- We have had a strong response to Habitat Humanity.
- Cindy's group is doing a joint car wash for Nemours.
- Ken shared that the Scouts have been working hard completing projects to spruce up our church as these young men achieve Eagle Scout honors.

**Meeting adjourned at 9: 10 pm and ended in prayer**

**Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2013 @ 7:00pm**