

**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes December 15, 2016

Opening: Gary Daniels called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:02 p.m. on December 15th at Peace United Methodist Church.

Attendees: Larry Meyer, Faye Meyer, Becky Brashears, Juile Chatfield, Rostam Kondolojy, Wendy Harmon, Melanie Pipkin, Eddie Pipkin, Gary Daniels, LeeAnn Inman, Drew Emerson, Aaron Rowe.

Approval of December Minutes

- We still need to approve July and August and October minutes. Pending completion.

Finance: Melanie Pipkin

- Last year we ended about \$20,000.00 negative.
- We have one of those occurrences where we have an extra pay period, and that happens to be in December.
- This payroll is \$15,000.00 that was not planned or projected,
- We are going to be about \$12,000-\$15,0000 negative in 2016.
- It's putting Gloria in a horrible position in order to make payroll.
- She has to move it from savings.
- She's trying to just handle it through cash flow, but cash can only last so long.
- The budget probably factors in the Christmas week.
- It's possible that some of the expenses will be lower, so that may play in to the deficit.
- I do think the youth brought in a little less than they did last year by just using last December as a forecast.
- Given the fact that both Christmas and New Years days are Sundays- with only one service, this may be problematic.
- The giving has been down.
- Where are we are going to redirect the money from the cell tower?
- There is no extra money. We are already negative and the problem is the money supposed to be going to the mortgage, isn't happening.
- We are closer to 40-50 thousand down and some of our expenses are up too.
- Gloria put together are report of giving for the finance committee and shared it with Council.
- It's compared to giving in December 2015.
- When we are looking at the list of those who have not pledged, it seems like they are people that will be giving.
- The goal is to contact them and open lines of communication.
- How many of those who pledged actually do fulfill their pledge?
- We usually bring in more. We always factor when we are budgeting a percentage above and beyond.
- Leeann has proposed to make calls to those who haven't pledged.
- This is delicate stuff. The phone call needs to come from someone who has authority to make the call.
- It's good to be sensitive and not make it a staff person.
- It needs to be one or two people and someone in the know permitted to be looking at those records.
- It's not church council's role to make these calls.

- What about Gloria? It was agreed she would be a good candidate.
- I think it would be good to have a script for Gloria to use.
- You could give someone the authority to have that task in addition to Gloria.
- We are talking about 16 families.
- We don't want to eliminate things that people need.
- This is appropriate to share with folks in the congregation.
- Frankly the numbers are dramatically down.
- The congregation needs to know this information and needs to know what's going on.
- Can Gloria ask Janice or Beth to make these calls and provide them with a script?
- Then also plan to make an announcement during the services as well.
- Who would be delivering the message?
- Let's wait until Epiphany Sunday- we can do it streamlined and during the announcements.
- Let's share just a reminder now.
- Then on Epiphany do the cold hard facts.
- Have we published end of year giving already?
- Please pray for miraculous results.
- Someone needs to design the message and then ask a group to review the message.
- Pastor LeeAnn will ask Gloria to talk to Beth and Janice.
- Pastor would like the verbiage for the script.
- Gary agreed to write the script.
- If it's people with an issue, give them an opportunity to share it in the conversation.
- Melanie/finance chair is usually the one who delivers the Finance message. But let's wait until the end of the year to see how things go.

25th Anniversary Plans: LeeAnn Inman

- The budget in part of determining how we are going to celebrate it.
- Bob Bushong is making his sermon in line with our Baptismal renewal Sunday.
- Bob will be here all three services.
- We are sending out a post card with the reunion invite to those who are here, who used to be here, visitors, founding members, formers pastors etc.
- There will be an ongoing continental brunch on the portico that Janice Adams is going to chair, and the UMW is going help.
- Tom Rose is talking with his Food Truck Guy.
- There will be festivities all morning long.
- Old favorites and looking forward and back in terms of music.
- Do we have a picture of the old projector? That would be a fun throwback.
- We did a video at one point, could we reuse a video on the website? Aaron will look in to it.
- We are going to do a Facebook Trivia contest.
- I met with Bob Bushong and we where also talking about the future with the staffing changes that are going to be happening in the near future.
- Bob has offered to meet with SPRC to talk about succession planning.
- Leeann asked us to get the info out and wants us to talk it up.
- Social media is going to be the main way we publicize it and also by word of mouth.
- Also, it's the Baptism of Jesus Sunday, and we where trying to think of some sort of symbolism.
- We came up doves that we will be passing out.
- If you can think of a strategic way to say that we need support for the party, please share your idea with LeeAnn.

Focus Groups: Gary Daniels

- The groups went very well and we did quite a few.
- We are still going through everything.
- The themes are not too different from the survey.
- There are the positives comments, which include the relationships and welcoming environments, Youth program, children, diversity, the opportunities for service and making it applicable.
- Both survey and focus groups commented that we are becoming formulaic.
- The themes don't feel like they go along with the books. One group was pretty passionate about that.
- People were wanting some worship connection from week to week.
- Sometimes if someone comes in late to the series, they are not connecting the dots.
- There was also concern about the technology- Many focus groups mentioned the slides not advancing being a big issue.
- I don't know how we fix it because it involves money.
- Have the Jonathan and Michael been briefed on what had been said?
- Markita and Wendy wanted to get together with Michael and talk about what was said.
- It's important that both Jonathan and Michael are there at the meeting.
- It was interesting to note that we are formulaic, but if we don't follow tradition, people tend to freak out.
- There was quite a bit of conflicting feedback but we are not going to please everyone all of the time.
- There was a spectrum where some said we should do more traditional music and then some said we should do more music that we aren't doing.
- We did hear some people suggested bringing in Traditional in to the Contemporary.
- Drew held one with the youth. It was entertaining and fun. They had some consistent feedback.
- They wanted more adults attending youth events. They wanted to subsidize the costs of missions.
- We don't want money to be a barrier to getting more kids so their idea was to make a first time trip easier to afford.
- We will the results out so that it's comprehensive.
- People did comment on the building and not liking the big room.
- People said it feels sterile, feels like a hotel.
- I will say that one idea that was intriguing was adding a water feature. It might nice atmosphere.
- We have talked about painting the walls a different color. People like the lights when they are working correctly.
- We probably need to pull the players together to figure out a strategic plan.
- We are close to coming on to some solutions.

Trustees: Drew Emerson

- Offsite storage went up this year and we are now spending \$280 a month for our unit.
- Our goal is to investigate a couple onsite storage units.
- It would need to be aesthetically pleasing.
- The trustees wonder if the council would be open to putting a structure here on the property.
- It's a financial exercise as we could pay ourselves back pretty quickly.
- Is it possible to wait until the cell tower is up before we do it? Affirmed.
- Cell tower Update. IT's still going to happen, but the county has been particular with the zoning.
- The county rep. was giving an update and there is no hearing date as of yet.
- We are at least a month away. IT's all just detail and paperwork but it's county administration.
- We would also like to publicize the workday 2nd Saturday. Affirm that there is an end time. Make it clear that it ends at noon.

Meeting Adjourned 8:23 p.m.