

# PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL

## *Meeting Minutes September 25, 2014*

**Opening:** Cris Williams called the regular meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:08 p.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Peace United Methodist Church. We opened with prayer led by Leeann Inman.

**Attendees:** Larry Myers, Gary Daniels, Leeann Inman, John Gordon, Julie Chatfield, Ken White, Tom Acey, Janice Adams, Becky Brashears, Faye Myers, Pat Ambrose.

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

- Julie Chatfield emailed July 2014 minutes in advance for review.
- Cris asked for motion to approve the minutes. Ken made the motion. Pat seconded the motion.
- July 2014 Minutes unanimously approved and are now posted on the website.

### **B. Communications- Larry Myers.**

- Larry wants to meet with those interested in being on our Communication Team. There are already people willing to help with the content on the website. Larry is hoping to use this team to find church events and help make them known. Facebook is being updated regularly. (We had a good turn out for Meet Me at the Pole and it was noted on Facebook.) Larry hopes to write articles about different things going on with people in our church.
- Ken questioned why a portion of his budget was going to communication and is curious how we divide these two ministries up. If email and web support are both considered technical ministry then the area needs more money.
- Larry is enthusiastic about having a small budget this year. Larry asked that we create one more line item on the budget for advertising, but John advised there is line item for advertising already included in the budget.
- John expressed that this was a good time to discover and discuss the issue because we are in the process of creating next years budget. All budget requests are to be sent to John and the Finance committee by Monday October 6th.

### **C. Lay Leadership- Leeann**

- Larry and Leeann met and discerned where the gaps on our ministry teams exist and have a plan to meet with the Lay Leadership Team to discuss nominations.
- We already have some new people rolling into Leadership. We feel optimistic that it will be a good team.

### **D. Mission- Pat**

- Sunday Serve is coming up this Sunday. It's a huge outreach with a lot going on. We are still plugging people in at the last minute.
- Faye and Pat are working on a big push towards Imagine No Malaria. This is an important mission because malaria has been shoved aside with Ebola. The US Administration is going to be focused on the Ebola and we don't want all of our hard work to go to waste. Nets are something you can put a dollar figure to which is why the nets are so successful.
- Julie is on the East Central District promoting committee for Imagine No Malaria. We should get updated media to add to the website. Now it's time to resurrect it.

#### **D. Finance- John Gordon- Handouts attached.**

- **Review of financials:** August finished in the hole. The second page of the Balance Sheet line item 3216 reflects a \$9000 liability from operating to the savings. As most summers have gone, there is a cash flow shortage and there are short-term loans from savings to operating. The intent is that it will be paid back.
- There is a particular concern that we are falling behind on our Connectional Giving. Even though we have modified the budgets, we have not been able to meet our goal.
- Based on weekend receipts, we are probably going to be pretty close to the budget. In order to shore up, there may be a need to take a look at the Foundational Savings Account and try to make up the loss if we aren't successful with the contributions.
- We want to do everything possible to keep as balanced as possible and not roll anything over to 2015. We will have a roll over with the Connectional Giving into 2015 if we don't pay it this year.
- Our mortgage ends the third week of December. As a reminder. A good portion of that is already allocated to the SOM campaign. The Finance Committee has received recommendations from the Mortgage committee on how to use those additional funds.
- We should plan to celebrate paying off the mortgage.
- We commend the diligent and accountable staff on monitoring expenses
- Another highlight is that we have completed our audit. This is the second year we have had an independent audit. There are some minor points with the audit, but they also aren't an easy fix for many reasons. Gloria is following the guidelines and procedures and equally important provides financial assistance to the staff members.
- Please be sure to thank Gloria for all that she does. She has been an awesome contribution to the overall financial reporting to Peace.
- Cris asked how we have been doing with new members? It was questioned if this was a lack of people coming into the church? John stated we are where we expected to be and that we did not anticipate a lot of growth. Leeann confirmed that a significant amount of new members would be joining by the end of the year. We've also lost some regular givers which sort of balances out. In some ways we have stayed up in the giving because we have had some new people coming in who have taken place of the long-term givers that we have lost. We also have a few transfers who are active in other churches. It's a learning curve for people to grow in their stewardship practice. We are staying steady in attendance.
- Reality is that SOM does influence regular giving. Though it appears discouraging, the glory is we have money in the bank for the long-term benefit of the facility. Leeann's sense is that people who pledge to SOM are also the people who are regular givers. It would be interesting to see if there are people who have pledged to both and then who have done one but not the other. We have so much support for SOM. Our congregation responded to the positive message so let's stay positive. Peace responds to a positive message so when reporting please remain positive.
- ACTION: It was suggested to do an Ending Life Well Seminar where we discuss ways people can plan for the future and their death that are beneficial. We are missing opportunities with people who have tithed.

#### **Trustees – Review of notes from Drew Emerson (absent)**

- Review of the Trustee reports.
- TECHNOLOGY: There was concern that 2/3 of the technology (video) donations were used on the upgrade to sound. This isn't accurate and sound was in need of a lot of repair. It was confirmed that there were meetings and email dialogue regarding these expenses with plans to still discuss video selection.
- With any large project we have, there are things that change. Drew and the Trustees are doing a great job of managing the process.

- **ACTION:** The tech group should reconvene before anything else is done. Cris will notify Drew to hold on any additional spending until this happens. Ken asked for clarification if the hold was for everything or just video. All spending is on hold.
- Ken has ordered two samples of wall sconces. They are less than two inches thick, are capable of dimming and use low power.
- Leeann publicly thanked Ken for all his hard work.
- We shared discussion on the sinkhole. John mentioned that the HOA is very concerned about it but claim it's not their problem. They want us to fix it immediately.
- We need to follow up on the lease of the property and also see if we can barter with them to help fill it in.
- John commended that Drew and the Trustees are doing a stellar job.

#### **E. Stewardship- Leeann**

- We are using a book called Three Simple Rules of Life. It gives ways of practicing faith in your life. It follows the Wesley Principles - Do no harm, do good, and love God. This is basic in nature but states that how we follow those rules makes a difference. We can do harm with the way we use our money and we can fail to do well with the way we use our money.
- It starts November 8<sup>th</sup> and ends the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Leeann asks for Council support and also possible witnesses. Gary and Charlie are chairs of the campaign.
- Looking beyond at a book by Jacob Armstrong called Treasure.

#### **F. Additional Updates-**

- Becky mentioned they were short on people on Hospitality.
- Church Conference is November 9<sup>th</sup>. We have Lauren Dancy scheduled to chair the meeting.
- Is it true that on Amazon the link to donate through the store goes to your designated church? John expressed that it doesn't seem to be working. Gary agreed to look into why it may not be working.
- Cris shared that when Eddie started working we had discussed about him becoming a local pastor. He has stopped going through the certification process and she wanted to be sure Church Council knew about it. SPRC discussed it at length and recognized and agreed that ordained ministry is not what he's been called to do. We just wanted it on record.
- Jana is coming up on her 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her employment on October 6<sup>th</sup>. She is also celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. When you see her, send her an email to congratulate her.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 in the Youth Room.