

SUMC CHURCH COUNCIL WORKSHOP

JANUARY 13, 2018

MINUTES

The following members were in attendance: Peter Gante, James Gamble, Gay Williams, Brandon Armstrong, Nancy Harris, Bonnie Johnson, Betty Tidquist, John Freshwater, Crystal DesVignes, Andrew Harper, David Wilmoth, Mary Weiss, Scott Dodson, Mel Guss, Merle Epperson, Susan Fulp, Lou Collins, Marcie Briley, Lois Craig.

Guest: Sanders Hall

Pastor Scott opened the workshop with the lighting of the Christ Candle. After he gave a devotion based on Colossians 3 and praying, Scott and Crystal served communion.

Mary Weiss, chair, welcomed all to the workshop and thanked them for their participation and service. Members introduced themselves, stating their positions on the council. Members were reminded to sign-in and to pick up the various handouts.

Mary Weiss lead the council in reading the council covenant. Lois gave a brief explanation of the form on setting goals.

Pastor Scott went over the essentials points of running a productive meeting. He emphasized the following: notification of meetings, establishing set times, opening meeting with lighting of Christ Candle and prayer, having a vice-chair and a secretary, and using the consensus method. He clarified that anyone can join a committee, except SPRC. Husbands and wives cannot be on the same administrative committee.

In replying to questions about how to handle a #1 response in consensus, Pastor Scott pointed out the need for grace and compassion. He also explained that new members of committees should be welcomed and given the necessary background on various issues. Unity is of prime importance.

REVIEWING 2017 GOALS

Improving Youth – Pastor Andrew reported that a full-time youth director has been hired. He has spent time getting to know the youth, adult leaders and doing

necessary planning. Qualitative attendance involving who is attending what and when is being done plus equipping volunteers. More volunteers are needed. The following series have been done: Basics of Faith, Life Relationships - a study of Paul, Barnabas and Timothy, a Christmas series. Pastor Andrew is building a youth leadership team to give him feedback and to help with teaching the youth group. There are 12-15 on roll for the confirmation class. Another confirmation class for 7th grade and up will start on February 4th.

Improving Communications – Bonnie Johnson listed some of the 19 individual projects completed by the Communications team. They were as follows: church logo design, communication survey, Welcome Centers, new brochures, campus way-finding signs, numbers of buildings, Facebook and other social media, live-streaming services, sermon teasers every week, Advent and Lenten brochures, new phone line for the phone tree, Chrismon pamphlet and sleeve banners. The updating of the website is not completed yet. Sanders Hall challenged members of the council to notify him of upcoming events so that external media (TV) can be contacted.

Mel Guss asked how the church can improve congregational member news. This concern will be directed to Congregational Care.

Starting a New Contemporary Worship Service – Brandon Armstrong reported that as a result of the Joel Team a launch team for a new worship service was organized. The launch team had three areas: worship, volunteers and marketing. The worship using the same format as the 9:45 service, worked on utilizing the existing technology and improving the worship. Terry Proper worked with getting people involved in the process as volunteers for the new service. The marketing group worked closely with Bonnie and Sanders on social media. There were three soft launches. Currently, the 9:45 service is averaging 140-160; the 11:15 service is averaging 60-80 with 20-30 online. Sanders Hall said that soon online participants will be able to give financially and to ask questions. He also noted that over 4,000 people have viewed the live-streaming with an average of 39 minutes per visit.

There are plans to extend the tech booth to allow for more volunteers. The 20 year-old speakers which were originally in the old sanctuary are being replaced for a more consistent sound experience.

Improving Making Disciples – Pastor Crystal handed out a graphic explaining the process. She thanked Sanders Hall for his help with the hand-out. Crystal reported that 85 people joined the church last year. There were two new member classes held. Advertising and mission activity draws people into our church. The focus and priority for 1st time visitors is the follow-up. Pastor Crystal does the follow-up with a written note or phone call. An administrative assistance/receptionist will be hired to help with the record keeping. Another focus will be on qualitative attendance, knowing who is where and when and tracking people and activities.

Nancy Harris gave a brief update on missions, sharing stories from Germaine Gardner about DBOM and Abby Young about Clothed in Righteousness. There are over 350 people involved in missions.

Peter Gante reported that the audit has been completed. SUMC ended the year in the black. The balance sheet has been developed.

Betty Tidquist reported that the Child Care By-Laws and MOU's have been updated and approved by the Child Care Advisory Committee.

2018 Goals – Pastor Scott reported that he and the church staff have the following goals for 2018: restarting Stephen's ministry program, beginning a 'Great of Age' ministry for our senior members, receiving 100 new members and 50 people watching services online. The emphasis for increased participation of people watching online is to reach the home bound and keep them connected to the church. Sanders Hall stated that they hope to add the traditional worship service online.

The Stephen's ministry program will be an extension of the church's ministry. Lay leadership training for the program will begin in March.

Additional Thoughts for 2018 – Pastor Scott explained the Commission on Way Forward, a committee that was established by the 2016 General Conference to handle the topic of human sexuality in the United Methodist Church. The desire is to have one denomination with 2 different books of discipline.

There are two schools of thought. The Wesley Covenant Association wants to keep the existing book of discipline as it is with the wording, 'homosexuality is incompatible with scripture'. The Reconciliation Movement wants this wording

removed to allow for homosexual pastors and to permit the marrying of homosexual partners.

Pastor Scott emphasized that this is an extremely complex problem with far reaching ramifications and many unanswered questions at this point. The conference will be providing training in February on how to navigate our church through this complex problem. A decision will be made at a General Conference meeting in February, 2019. Pastor Scott emphasized the need for prayer and reliance on the work of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Scott closed the workshop with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Craig, recording secretary