

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 22, 2018

The following members were in attendance: Julie Lee (for Paula Roberson and Lou Collins), Gay Williams, Peter Gante, Carol Ferry, Andrew Harper, Lisa Potts, Chuck Egerton (for Nancy Harris), Merle Epperson, Brandon Armstrong, Bonnie Johnson, Mary Weiss, Crystal DesVignes, Bonnie Bihary, David Wilmoth, Mel Guss, Scott Dodson, Lois Craig

Guests: Ray Bihary, Sanders Hall

Mary Weiss opened the meeting by lighting the Christ candle. She read a short devotional entitled, 'Bullets or Seeds' and prayed.

Members were reminded to sign-in and pick up the various handouts. The minutes from the April 24th meeting were approved as emailed.

The following celebrations were noted: Outside Welcome Center successful; 5,000 UMW members attended the National Conference; Confirmands joining the church; wonderful, successful Youth Sunday; Fellowship Hall AC working; live streaming of the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:

SPRC: Crystal's celebration will be June 17th. In July, there will be a series of 'meet and greet' for Adam.

Finance: Peter explained the financial report, pointing out that all expense categories except one were under 33% of the budget. Only one, General Operating, was at 42% due to insurance payments. At the last finance meeting, there was consensus to transfer \$25,000 from Child Care.

Communications: Bonnie Johnson reported that proposals for the roadside electronic church sign will be presented at the June Council meeting. Another communication workshop will be held in the fall. The cork backing in the campus signs will be upgraded to properly secure the campus maps.

Board of Trustees: Mel Guss reported that the roof leaks in Building Three have been traced to the A/C drain and the exterior wall. Extensive work will be done and there is money to cover the expense. Inspection of the Barnum House indicated the presence of hazardous materials; removal of such will cost \$750.

John Lee has recommended that a date be chosen for the removal of recoverable materials from the Barnum House. Demolition of the Barnum House will cost \$7,500.

UMW: Lisa Potts announced that the next General Meeting of UMW is June 27th and the members will participate in a Merci project. Members attending the National meeting had opportunity to engage in several community projects.

Lay Delegate: Bonnie Bihary reminded members of the upcoming Annual Conference in June.

Stewardship: David Wilmoth stated that the Stewardship committee had come to a consensus to use Adam Hamilton's 'Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity' as a theme for the 2018-2019 stewardship campaign.

Contemporary Worship: Brandon reported that the 11:15 service is maintaining and increasing its attendance. The tech booth has been expanded and the camera system upgraded. He is waiting to hear from Ellis Guy concerning technical renovations. Al Barnes will carpet the tech booth free of charge.

Music: Merle stated that Jay Turnage is building a platform for the video camera in the sanctuary. The church carillon is no longer functioning. Merle is checking to see if it is fixable.

Evangelism: Gay Williams reported that there have been many inquiries about the church at the Welcome Centers. There are 46 ambassadors (formerly guides) that man the centers each Sunday. Congregation can use 'sign-up genius' to volunteer. Bonnie Johnson will make this available on the church's website.

Missions: Chuck Egerton stated that that yard sale made about \$8,000.; expenditure receipts still due. Nancy Harris and Chuck Egerton will co-chair the next yard sale in 2020.

Sanders Hall announced the Paul Coleman concert on June 2nd in Building Three. Tickets are required but they are free. Great opportunity for evangelism.

PASTORS' REPORTS:

Andrew: The scholarship committee has met. The church (thanks to a generous member), the UMW and the UMM have funded scholarships. Senior Sunday is June 10th. Several activities are planned throughout the summer to keep contact

with the youth and their families. ASP is June 17 – 23 with 60 people participating.

Crystal: Seven new Stephen ministers will be commissioned on June 24th. There have been 143 visitors this year so far. By June 3rd, 68 people will have joined the church. New members fill out a New Member Survey, indicating their interests. Crystal appealed to the committee chairs to follow up on Joan Ferrell's emails which state the new members' interest in serving on that particular committee. This should be done as soon as possible after receiving the email. The prayer service has been rescheduled for May 29th.

Scott: Scott reiterated Crystal's request for committee chairs to follow up. He also encouraged council members to invite new members to participate in church activities and the UMM and UMW visitation programs to encourage home-bound members to watch service online. The ministry to older members is in progress.

Charge Conference is October 15th.

Revitalizing the Emmaus community is on the to-do list. George Speake and Jim Brewster will serve as liturgists. The last two weeks of June and first two weeks of July a new preaching schedule will be tried to see if it is workable.

Military Appreciation Day was cancelled and will possibly be rescheduled.

Scott asked for prayer at Annual Conference as he will report that the insurance benefits are going down and the costs are going up.

Scott suggested asking The Hem to sponsor service projects such as The Rise Against Hunger and a Habitat house. The church would provide the workers.

Scott reported that Finance and Trustees have been considering the number of capital projects that are stacking up at a cost of \$457,053 which includes replacing the Barnum House. Scott suggested that the church ask the bank to refinance our present loan at a fixed rate and pull out the amount for the capital projects. A fixed rate would lower the monthly payments. The council came to a consensus that the finance committee gather the pertinent facts and present findings to the council at a later date.

AREAS OF DISCUSSION/DISCERNMENT: A change in the Room Use Agreement to accurately reflect the number of hours that Steve Dyer, our Sound Technician,

works was recommended by SPRC and Finance. Council agreed by consensus. SPRC will discuss budgeting extra hours for Steve for special events.

Anne Turnage asked that the Room Use Agreement form be filled out online. Again it was stressed that everything goes through Anne before it is approved or put on the calendar.

Jay Turnage is building a cabinet for the laptop used for power point presentations. Merle stated that there is an extra laptop in the choir room.

There was a discussion on how to encourage visitors to return and how to keep new members. Suggestions included monthly welcome parties, coffee with the pastors, personal conversations with visitors/new members. These suggestions and others are to be sent to the Evangelism committee for future development.

Crystal closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Craig, secretary

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 26TH