

Christ United Methodist Church
Council meeting
October 15, 2018

Present: Linda Yoki, Pastor David Bryrum, Carrie and Lauren McCool, John and Carol Yarian, Rita Bulington, Rexanne McCauley, Lisa Mayer, Bill Conaway, Claude and Sharon Sawyer, Hal Acree, Pam Ewing, Glenn Pearson, Paula Thoennes, Don and Judy Uglow, Kelly Dickerson and Joan Banning.

Linda Yoki called the meeting to order and Rita Bulington opened with prayer.

Linda then reminded us of the mission of the church, making disciples. She asked those present who had attended one of the Pastor's Town Hall sessions to comment.

Claude Sawyer indicated that comments were made regarding the change in schedule which began in May. Persons were upset about the lack of communication regarding this change due to its effect on existing Sunday School classes. Some of this resentment is still lingering. Rita indicated that her class actually gained members as a result of moving to the 11:15 time.

Lisa expressed appreciation for Pastor Dave's explanation of the process which results in Pastors being appointed to churches in the Conference.

Pastor Dave asked about the current state of the congregation. Comments were that it was getting better as people were coming back. People were smiling when leaving the service and greeting the pastor. There is a healing process and we are moving along.

He then commented that in both afternoon and evening sessions there were few, if any, attendees under 50 years of age and wondered what this indicated about our church. Pam Ewing commented that younger families have to make priority choices like "helping with homework" or attending a meeting. Pastor Dave commented that perhaps strongest feelings are in the long time members of the church.

Comments were made that we were not investing in our youth. Those present mentioned previous programs for younger members that were currently waning or no longer existed. Members under 50 are mostly newer and are looking for a niche.

Suggestions for moving forward were requested. Having a "fair" to display and promote options for service was mentioned. Carol Yarian stated that such an event had been scheduled for September but had been cancelled. Perhaps after the first of the year this will be considered again. The lack of youth who have previously helped with the chicken noodle dinner was noted. Kelly Dickerson explained that scheduling activities for youth was difficult due to jobs and school activities and their perception of the church is that "they don't want us there." She is working to change this perspective.

Regarding the chicken noodle dinner, all felt it had gone well with many families in attendance.

The August minutes, had been sent by email. Some had not received these and asked if they could be included in the future. Linda will ask Terra to copy these for the next meeting. Claude commented that more transparency was needed and information needs to be shared with the congregation. That should include Finance information (budget) as well as Council minutes. Ways to do this were shared including posting on the Web site. Rita Bulington moved and Lisa Mayer seconded the motion to approve the minutes, as written, which passed.

Carol Yarian reported on missions. Breast Cancer Awareness had been promoted at yesterday's service. We have partnered with the YWCA who served over 1000 women in the past year.

We are collecting for Turkey Time which will provide food for Thanksgiving meals for those who need assistance. Last year 45 boxes of food for a complete Thanksgiving meal were delivered. Currently plans are being made for the College Care Ministry and Jubilee Christmas, S to be followed in January with Pack Away Hunger.

Carol then reported on the organ situation. The organ was manufactured in 1973 and is currently not working. Northside Music indicated that repairs would cost about \$3864. A used organ could possibly be purchased for \$7000 to \$8000. There is currently \$12,000 in an organ fund which could be used. Further comments were made about the difficulty in finding an organist. Lisa Mayer and Amber Traeger have contacts with music staff at Tecumseh and will share that information. Glenn Pearson suggested an electronic program that is used in another small church. John Yarian commented that a good keyboard could be purchased instead. In order to proceed with making a decision to purchase an organ, seeking information regarding cost and availability, and personnel for the organ, a motion was made by Carol Yarian and seconded by Rexanne McCauley that a committee be formed to study all aspects of the problem and make a recommendation to the Council. The motion passed. Jeff Stearns has been helpful in the conversation regarding the organ and has indicated that he could assist the committee.

Rexanne McCauley reported on Church For Everyone as well as the Women's event.

There was no report from Finance.

Paula Thoennes reported that Staff Parish was working on a new process for staff expense reports.

Glenn Pearson reported for the Trustees. The garage had been broken into and insurance would cover the cost of repairs. The water damage in the parsonage will be completed on Wednesday. The cost of repairs was \$12,439, some of it covered by insurance. A gate for the child care play area has been installed that will meet safety regulations. Air quality testing has been completed. The carpet in the multi-purpose room needs replacing and a cost of \$47,000 is projected. This could be a special carpet complete with markings for basketball and volleyball. Pam Ewing has been helping with landscaping and on Saturday a work time has been scheduled to transplant some of the existing plants. The base for the Columbarium has been laid and the final part will be delivered soon.

Lauren McCool reported for the Child Care and Preschool. The children from these programs will be singing on Sunday, October 21 at the 2nd service. There will be 50 children with about 200 extra parents and guests at this service. A video, prepared by Lauren and Carrie showing activities being used to promote physical fitness, recently won \$700 in a video challenge contest. The money will be used for equipment. Lauren thanked Glenn for his assistance in the child care area with needed repairs and problems. Currently there are 2 openings in the 4-5 year old classrooms and 1 opening in the Preschool.

Carrie McCool reported that 30 cars are scheduled for Trunk or Treat. The children's Christmas pageant will be December 16 at both services.

Kelly Dickerson reported for the Youth. She indicated that they were considering a Prayer Walk area in the existing flower garden on the east side. They would then care for the garden. The area is currently cared for by Pat Wright as her granddaughter built it as a Girl Scout project. Kelly will talk with Pat before proceeding.

Dave reported that he would be meeting with the Staff Parish Committee next Monday making recommendations which will have a budgetary impact on the church going forward.

Linda asked that the Council members hold the article from "The Shift", given us by Pastor Dave, until our next meeting. Rita Bulington said that, after reading the article, she had purchased the book and recommended it for Council members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Pastor Dave closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Banning