

Christ United Methodist Church
Council meeting
February 25, 2019

Present: Pastor Kurt Freeman, Scott Gillespie, Roger Horn, Christi Lower, Dave Patton, Jack Dwiggins, Hal Acree, Lisa Mayer, John Yarian, Claude Sawyer., Carol Yarian, Pastor Stephanie Hanslow, Joan Banning, Hollie Kessler, Gary Boardman, Rita Bulington and Bradley Blanchard.

Scott Gillespie introduced himself and called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for coming. Rita Bulington opened with prayer.

Scott asked those present to share experiences of ministry moments. Pastor Kurt suggested that we share how we are doing in making disciples and celebrating what we are a part of. Sunday School classes, good feelings about the church service, activities in the gym, outreach of the Kids Kloset, mission trips planned, many volunteers willing to help, becoming acquainted with those at Transitional Housing, outreach of Church for Everyone were all mentioned as opportunities that have occurred recently. As a church our task is to create an environment where people encounter God. Kurt asked that we watch to see where we have seen God at work. Hollie Kessler and Marlen Slagel are working to collect these stories.

Scott asked that we look at the minutes from the December meeting. In the future these will be online before the meeting. Hal Acree moved and Lisa Mayer seconded that the minutes be approved and the motion passed.

Carol Yarian reported for Missions, Health Care and Aroma. At the Pack Away Hunger event 49,032 meals were packed. A very diverse group of about 260 volunteers included Purdue Football players and coaches, and people from 5 area churches. The next mission trip to Henderson Settlement will be July 7 to 13. We will soon receive a list of projects from Henderson and choose those we will be working on. Volunteers are being enlisted now. Aroma is doing OK at the present time. A Health Fair will be planned at a future date.

John and Carol Yarian and Glenn Pearson had attended a District presentation by the finance persons from St. Andrew UMC. One issue of some importance was the need for a policy regarding credit cards. This is currently being addressed for us by the Staff Parish Committee.

Hal Acree reported for the Staff Parish committee. A new Children's Ministry Director has been hired, Emily Mayer, who will begin this week. In January the Acrees had invited the committee and spouses for a "get to know you event" where the role of the Staff Parish committee was discussed. They are developing a staff liaison program with committee members. He stated that changes are coming.

Hollie reported for the Trustees. She stated that Glenn Pearson is kept busy with maintenance tasks. Frozen pipes in the Education wing will be addressed during spring break for the Preschool and Child Care. Emergency lighting is being replaced. They are looking at developing a maintenance schedule for the building rather than addressing emergencies. In addition a new furnace has been installed in the parsonage.

The Child Education Board has had an initial meeting discussing how the whole program is working. The program is doing well but there are things which could be done better. The Child Care is now at a Level 2 and expects to reach Level 3 by July. Some staff members are certified and other are working toward a certificate.

Carol Yarian reported for Children's Ministry. There are 18 - 20 children, all ages together, in Sunday School with 2 teachers. Carol has been providing assistance to the teachers. One of the first things Emily (the new Children's Ministry Director) is considering is dividing this group. This will require using another classroom. Emily is concerned about and working on VBS for this summer. Curriculum for spring is on order.

Bradley Blanchard was asked to comment about the Youth program. He indicated that 2 months ago there was not much interaction, but this is improving with some plans for the Sunday program. There are 10 - 15 students involved now. Pastor Kurt talked about the Youth Co-op which is being developed for the Lafayette UM churches under the direction of Brian Traeger of Brown Street UM Church. A District grant of \$10,000 has been obtained to use in developing this program. There is no immediate financial implication for our participation as our current budget will be used for this year. Focus for the students involved will be discipleship, mission, and some social gatherings. The mission focus will be local and a plan is already in place to make spring break kits for elementary students. This Co-op program had been somewhat developed but needed leadership. Aaron Osborne along with Melissa Kramer from Trinity UMC will be responsible for recruiting leaders and being accountable financially. The plan is to develop a Youth Council whenever possible. Pastor Kurt moved that Christ Church participate in this Co-op. Hal Acree seconded the motion and it passed.

Pastor Kurt reported on General Conference meeting now in St. Louis. On Sunday Bishop Trimble is addressing the congregations at 5:30 PM and this will be live-streamed at our church. In addition the Conference Superintendent, Lore Gibson, will be at CUMC to conduct a Q and A session at 4:30 PM on March 10 for the District to discuss what may happen in the future at our churches.

Pastor Kurt commented that he had been listening to the congregation who are concerned about discipleship time. Our current schedule restricts the opportunities for this and should be changed. We were asked to communicate with members about this as it should happen by summer. A probable schedule is: 8:30-9:30 worship; 9:45-10:30 Sunday School for all; 11:00-12:00 worship. A question was posed about youth. Space was an issue for classes.

Gary Boardman reported for the Finance Committee that things were going well and we were able to fund some things that had not been done in the immediate past. Planning a year-long Stewardship program is being considered. He stated that this is the most positive situation he has seen. He continued that 6 months ago he wondered if we could keep the doors open. He said that instead he asked for prayer and committed to the Pack Away Hunger program. For this, Finance needs to celebrate. Pastor Kurt commented that a "scarcity mindset" was harmful and we need to think about funding missions. A narrative budget will be used for next year.

Pastor Stephanie commented that as of January 1, the goal for CFE had been changed by INUMC Church Development to become an independent church and not another congregation of the UMC as stated in the December minutes.

Christi Lower indicated that there is a need to develop an official legal agreement for the Columbarium. She will talk with Don Uglow concerning this.

In announcing the next Council meeting Pastor Kurt explained the process he prefers for church meetings. He would eventually like to have a simple Council structure where we begin by talking about what we can do and then separating for committees to discuss their specific business. In the meantime, Council will meet on the 3rd Monday of every other month and all

other committees/Boards will meet on the alternative Monday. Our next meeting will be April 15 at 7:00. He then asked that any person or Committee with a report please have it to Hollie in the church office by the previous Thursday (for April this is April 11).

The meeting was adjourned and Rita Bulington closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Joan Banning, Secretary