

Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting - Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2018

Mission: Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Purpose: We Celebrate LIFE (Love God, Invite Others, Fellowship, and Engage the Community)

Call to Community

- Covenant of Leadership & Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
- Church Council meeting opens 7:01 P.M. meeting
 - relocate meeting to Sanctuary for installation and Communion
 - Rev. Cooper opens with a prayer and reading from Isaiah 43 Verses 1-3
 - "Covenant of Leadership" – all read aloud - see attached:
 - Rev. Cooper celebrates communion
 - ends with open prayer
 - return to Room 107/109

- Church Council's Structure
 - Member Introductions – members introduce themselves
 - Purpose – No discussion
 - Hands out copy of: ¶252 - The Church Council - see attached:
 - as taken from the "Book of Discipline"
 - Previous Agenda Items, Minutes Review – No discussion

Call to Christian Conversation

- Finance:
 - 5-year comparison – trends are important
 - attendance dropping
 - ended year with \$46,867 surplus for the Ministry Fund
 - put \$3,000 into rainy day fund
 - and the rest was sent to the Conference for our apportionments.
 - paid 93% of our apportionments for 2017.
 - Updated the council on the numbers – See attached:
 - reviewed - Income and Expense statement January 2017-December 2017 for both the Ministry and Mortgage & Maintenance Funds
 - reviewed - Balance sheet December 31, 2017
 - reviewed - Income and Expense Statement, 5-year comparison

- Stewardship:
 - As of December 31, 2017
 - have received the following for 2018:
 - Ministry fund: 157 pledges totaling \$558,044
 - Mortgage and Maintenance fund: 124 pledges totaling \$193,724
 - for comparison, for 2017:
 - Ministry fund: 171 pledges totaling \$561,888 received
 - Mortgage and Maintenance funds: 127 pledges totaling \$212,776
 - average pledge for ministry fund for 2018:
 - slightly higher than that for 2017
 - \$3,554 per pledge in 2018 vs. \$3,286 per pledge in 2017 while
 - average pledge for the mortgage and maintenance fund for 2018:
 - slightly lower than 2017
 - \$1,562 per pledge in 2018 and \$1,675 per pledge in 2017

- For the five-year time period 2012 to 2017:
 - 2017 has the highest percentage of non-pledged giving to total giving (21.7%) and the highest percentage of annual pledge received (108.1%)
- For the five-year time period 2012-2017:
 - mortgage and maintenance fund had the second lowest percentage of pledged dollars received (89%)

- Stewardship Update – Rev. Cooper:
 - encourage members to tithe during Lent to practice sacrificial giving as a part of their spiritual discipline
 - considering moving the 2019 stewardship campaign to early next year or earlier in the fall this year. We are currently gathering information about this and will keep Church Council informed.
- Some who Pledge in 2017 have not yet pledged in 2018 - will be following up
- Year-end statements will go out shortly
 - with w/ thank you
 - and comments discussing where the money is being spent

- Staff Parish:
 - Expenses are up - have had busy and rough last couple of years
 - Have vacant position – Rev. Cooper has had to pick up more duties and responsibilities
 - will recommend, when finances permit, an assistant minister
 - but can't at this time because of tight budget
 - when numbers improve will return to Church Council to discuss budget later in 2018

- Trustees:
 - JB Hall Update:
 - participate in JB Hall task force
 - encourage all Church members to attend and have a voice
 - this weekend January 28th and again in February 11th
 - will not share information or data during these meeting
 - purpose of meetings:
 - hear and document concerns from the congregation
 - looking for input
 - Discussions about recording meetings and posting on web site:
 - would require people to speak in microphone
 - cannot post on web - may be legal issues with posting
 - Tentatively - voting is scheduled for March 11th
 - must be present to vote – there are no absentee ballots permitted
 - no rush to vote on topic this important
 - Trustees – projects completed include:
 - removed dead pines replaced with holly
 - constructed a handicap ramp
 - significant water leak at door off chapel – has been taken care of
 - Focus – talk about priorities for 2018
 - may be some very large expensive projects – such as a roof and other
 - Look very hard and prioritize large expensive project on the horizon
 - Reserves had been decreased by \$19,000 by required maintenance
 - bill for water leak has not yet received
 - reduce reserve by \$21,000
 - Noted very dedicated stewards:
 - generously share time and talents with our church
 - may not have these folks available in the future
 - have been getting by and relying on resources in the Church
 - cannot continue to do this in the future
 - consider hiring a facilities manager
 - Church is too big and complex to continue to rely on volunteers

- Other Reports
 - Church Council meeting - devotional sign up:
 - is anyone interested in presenting please sign-up - only need five
 - Additional devotions:
 - needed on Saturdays beginning in February
 - must be kid friendly and no more than 3-4 minutes in length

Upcoming Events

- Calendar Additions, Corrections, Discussion
 - Calendar was reviewed
 - "Inter-generational" trip is in the planning stage for July 14-20, 2019
 - Sager Brown to OMCOR in Louisiana
 - forty(40) slots available with twenty(20) reserved for youth
 - no age limit for children
 - Shamrock 5K March 17th – this is last Council meeting before the 5K:
 - last year – Mt. Pisgah won \$500
 - for having the largest team in the competition
 - teams consist of runners, walkers AND support people
 - don't have to be a runner or walker to participate and be counted
 - Super Bowl "Caring":
 - youth will be collecting "spare change" at end of services
 - funds raised will go to CCHASM
 - Soup dinner on ASH Wednesday, February 14th
 - Funds raised will be used for mission trip to Pittsburgh
- Deadline for March/April Newsletter
 - Thursday, February 15th to William Marriott - No discussion
- Nominations & Leadership Development Orientation Meeting,
 - Sunday, February 11th - 12:30 - No discussion
- JB Hall - Church Wide Discussion dates:
 - Sunday January 28th - 9:30 A.M.
 - Sunday February 18th - 12:15
- JB Hall - Church Conference and Vote:
 - Sunday, March 11th – 12:15

Call to Service

- Setting Strategic Goals
 - Individual Branch goals need to be submitted in writing prior to March 26th meeting:
 - to be included on the Agenda and discussed during March meeting
 - will review goals again during November meeting as well
- Vision 2020 – there was no discussion of the following:
 - Missions
 - Envision the Future: 50% of the congregation will be involved in transformational missions.
 - Define Strategic Priorities, Goals and Objectives: church-wide simultaneous mission experiences.
 - Fellowship/Community
 - Envision the Future: family reaching family (church family actively engaged with community of Midlothian and beyond).
 - Define Strategic Priorities, Goals and Objectives: church-wide study on missions; church-wide community missions Sunday.

Small Groups

- Envision the Future: 75% of the congregation will belong to a small group.
- Define Strategic Priorities, Goals and Objectives: creation of 2-3 new small groups.

Pastors' Comments

- Ash Wednesday, February 14th – two(2) services: 1 P.M. and 7 P.M.
- 2020 Mt. Pisgah celebrates 175 years – consider a celebration

Thanks/Celebration/Recognition

- Any thanks or recognition to share with group - [None offered](#)

Next Meeting

- March 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m. in Rooms 107/109
 - Send agenda items to Steve Boles and Erika MacCormac by Wednesday, March 21st
 - Called meeting in October for Pastor Salaries per "Book of Discipline"
- Future Meeting Dates - May 28, July 23, September 24, and November 26
 - With a meeting likely for October to review pastor salaries*
- [March 28th – This is "Holy Week",](#)
 - [change Council meeting date from March 28th to March 19th](#)
 - [Holy week is a time to encourage people to come to worship](#)
 - [Move Church Council to March 19th](#)
- [May 28th – Memorial Day](#)
 - [Move Church Council meeting to May 21st](#)

Prayer Requests/Concerns

- [prayers requested and concerns shared](#)

Closing Prayer/Sending Forth

- [closing prayer offered](#)
- [meeting adjourns - 0815](#)

Minutes respectfully submitted: [R.S. Boles – recording secretary](#)

Next Meeting: [March 19th, Room 107/109 at 7:00 P.M.](#)