

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 3, 2013**

Members Present: Revs. Bonnie and Jim, Rick Schroff, Jill Mackey-Feist, Sherri Willard-Argyres, Nita Phillips, Hal Salwasser, Cindy Dahl, Brooke Collison, Elizabeth Neilsen, Dave Straub, Terry Bolin, Julie Christianson, Anne Foltz (Absent: Jim Swinyard, Jan Walker)

Approval of the April 27, 2013 Minutes

Jill moved to approve, Dave seconded, approved unanimously

Review of Work Done on the Vision Statements

Each vision statement committee provided a report on the progress of the statement thus far. Each vision statement is followed by respective reports and discussion.

**By 2019 most members of the congregation will be able to talk openly and respectfully about our faith/spiritual journeys (including our questions and struggles) with each other as well as our families, friends and community members.**

Rev. Jim reported: no curriculum has been piloted, no committee has been formed. We discussed how to proceed and possible candidates for the committee. Rev. Jim is recruiting members to be the first small group to pilot curriculum. Jill asked what barriers might be, and how we might grow that "cultural change" within our Council. Hal and Tim have done this in their adult Sunday school. Julie brought up how natural this was at the young adult group. Hal discussed the book *When Faith Meets Reason*, and its impact. Rev. Jim has small group resources, including how to work with people who find it difficult to share personally. The plan remains to recruit 6-12 small group leaders for the Lenten study.

The group has implemented a "spotlights on faith" program where members of the congregation have shared their personal faith journeys during worship. This program was implemented ahead of schedule in May.

**In 2018 CFUMC will have ministry team(s) focused on identifying needs and facilitating service to marginalized people in our community. This might mean developing active, visible partnerships with other community organizations and interested people or acting independently.**

Room at the Inn Report

Rev. Jim reported: The shelter will be open Nov 1-Apr 1, 7 pm-7am. We anticipate 8-12 women at a time. There will be paid staff present every night (a team of 2-4 people will share this work) and a paid person to clean the space and showers. It will cost the program \$14-15,000/year. We have some funding available in our budget and through money set aside from a designated gift. Three grant proposals have been submitted by the team overseeing this project.

Currently our employment policy says that if a person works 20 hours, they need to be provided health insurance. The organizing team is trying to make sure we have the insurance issue dealt with. The custodial person hired would not get enough hours to need insurance. In addition to the paid staff, one volunteer would be on hand every night, as well as a person who would be on call on a 24-hour basis.

Several Council members shared concerns and ideas around this report. A summary follows:

- Sherri expressed concern that there has not been enough communication around this issue.
- Several Council members discussed the importance of communication, and Cindy talked about the role a more dynamic website could play in helping people feel less surprised and more excited about changes at the church. She brought up the idea that website design may be addressed by staffing decisions.
- Jill said there is a deeper level of concern, because of people having security issues (regarding safety of families).
- Elizabeth brought up the point that we cannot be swayed away from action because of our fear, as that only leads to inaction.
- Terry pointed out that the shelter may be a stop-gap measure, but Rev. Jim said that although this was originally true, that may no longer be the case.
- Nita wanted to add that she counts herself among the people who are afraid, but she agrees that we need to move forward boldly.
- Anne brought up that this action is in line with one of the three vision statements and that although she is afraid, she knows this is the right thing to do.
- We discussed the need to communicate this project more effectively with members.

Terry reported that Corvallis Family Table, recently approved as part of the Linn-Benton Food Share, has received a number of grants that will enable us to utilize the closet space in the Community Center formerly used by 4C's for food storage. However, we need to do some electrical work in order for the space to work. Once the grant comes through, the work can happen.

**By 2018 we will have increased number of younger persons active in leadership roles. By 2016 we will have a well-established comprehensive mentoring program in place where young people work with/learn from older leaders in the church. This would include lay leadership, community leadership, and marriage and family support.**

Proposals from Mentoring Task Force

Rick reported on this, and said he has a list of leaders on his desk and he will talk to them. Brooke also refreshed memories that Julie, Jan, Bonnie, Rick and he are all on the committee. Please see Appendix A for the document that the task force will send to ministry team leaders. Brooke also talked about his idea that Council members could approach new people to take them out to coffee or lunch. Julie has a list of people who can be approached. Brooke added insight he's gained from facilitating a care giver group: he encouraged us to not talk to our friends at coffee hour. Julie brought up the fact that there's nothing available for families with children who would not be considered young adults.

Reconciling Committee Report

Nita reported from the Reconciling Committee, that there is a change in the Reconciling Congregation Statement. Our original statement reads:

**We are a Reconciling Congregation that welcomes everyone into full participation in the life of the congregation regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, physical or mental condition, or marital status. We are devoted to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God.**

The suggested revised statement reads:

**We are a Reconciling Congregation that welcomes everyone into full participation in the life of this church! Your age, sexual orientation, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, economic situation, marital status, and physical or mental condition will enrich the fabric of our community. We accept all people as children of God.**

Nita also provided a rationale for the changes which can be found in Appendix B. Hal moved to approve it, Jill seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

#### Changes in the Single Governance Document

Motion: To amend Section IV A. the Single Board Governance Model to add the following language:

**“The Property Ministry Team consisting of six members and a leader will be selected by the Church Council in consultation with the Committee on N. & L.D. and will be accountable to the Church Council. 3 members of the Property Ministry Team shall be the members of the Church Council with property expertise as elected by the Church Conference. The property ministry team should meet as necessary for its business. It may form additional task forces as needed.”**

Rick had to leave the meeting, and Hal took over as chair. Hal moved that we discuss this. Elizabeth seconded it. Rev. Jim explained the rationale for this, that Terry had the responsibility of the entire building on his shoulders, but without regular meetings, there was little accountability. This would be a way to bring people in as new property team members, and it would provide for more accountability. Dave expressed concern that we are forcing people to work at the church, and Julie suggested that perhaps people could just be asked to do tasks and come to meetings without having them be elected to the Property Ministry Team. Terry would be willing to wait until the next meeting to see if the problem is resolved. Brooke moved to table the motion, and Nita seconded it.

Motion: To add a new Section II.E as follows:

#### **”E. Lay Leaders Team**

**The Lay Leaders (current, past, and elect) and pastors will schedule and develop agendas for Church Council and town hall meetings. The Lay Leaders Team will be available to the pastors for consultation as needed.”**

Rev. Jim moved that we accept the motion with this revised language:

#### **“”E. Executive Committee**

**The Lay Leaders (current, past, and elect) and pastors will schedule and develop agendas for Church Council and town hall meetings. The Lay Leaders will be available to the pastors for consultation as needed.”**

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Building Use Policy Changes

Motion: To adopt the amended changes in the Room Use and Events Policy recommended by the staff, specifically, the amended Waste Management Guidelines.

Hal said that we need to defer action on this issue until our next meeting because the Council did not receive all of the information.

#### Finance Ministry Team Report

There was an error on the Treasurer's Report (one week's income was reported twice) and rather than being \$8,674.88 ahead on our budget we are actually ahead \$74.88. This error cannot be fixed for FY2013.

Motion: To approve hiring a Tuesday Evening Dinner Cook and pay for it by using \$1,280 from the "Emerging Ministries" fund in the 2013 General Fund budget.

Brooke moved to approve this motion. Elizabeth seconded. People with expertise in HR pointed out that they were uncomfortable with the language of the rationale, but Rev. Jim pointed out that we were only being asked to consider the language of the motion. Cindy brought up the idea that this could be a paid internship for an LBCC student, which would address the concern about the employee feeling too much ownership over the position. Motion approved unanimously.

#### Executive Session for SPRC Business

##### Confirm the Future Meeting Schedule

Future meeting dates are:

November 2, 2013

February 1, 2014

May 3, 2014

Brooke Collison closed us with prayer.

## Appendix A

To: FUMC Ministry Groups  
From: Mentoring Task Group  
Subject: Encouraging New Members

One goal the Church Council adopted was to ***have (by 2016) a well-established comprehensive mentoring program in place where young people work with/learn from older leaders in the church regarding lay leadership, community leadership, and marriage and family support.***

We would ask your ministry group to do a couple of things to move the church toward this goal:

1. Identify one or more persons from the congregation who might be willing to attend some of your meetings to discover what you do and how you do it;
2. Have at least one person on your ministry team who would act as a mentor to the invited person(s); and
3. Inform the Mentoring Task Group what person(s) you have taken under wing.

Your ministry group might be the kind which does not require a congregational vote to become a member; or, it might be a group where membership is defined (restricted) by *Discipline*. In the first case, the person you invite might want to become a member. In the second, you might have identified someone you would recommend to the nominating committee for election at some future date. A third possibility is that the person(s) you invite to a few meetings might decide they don't want to become a member—at least they have become more informed about the church [the intent of the mentoring goal].

At a future date, the Mentoring Tasks Group will organize a work session on “Methodism 101” where people new to the UMC can learn more about history, structure, and function. At the same time, we will try to have a section of the work session on “how to be an effective mentor.”

We hope that more younger members will become more acquainted with church operation and will be willing to become members of ministry groups and church leaders.

Let us know what you think about this proposal.

- Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson
- Brooke Collison
- Jan Walker
- Rich Schroff
- Julie Christenson

July, 2013.

## Appendix B

### Rationale for Changing the Reconciling Congregation Statement

The Reconciling Congregation Committee is proposing a few wording changes to the existing Reconciling Congregation Statement. It's been many years (do we know how many?) since it was last updated. With the passage of time, language used to describe the descriptors has become dated and is no longer as reflective of the commonly understood descriptive terms or has become more inclusive as our collective understanding has grown and changed.

Our intent is to update language in the statement with those changes and hopefully express to all who read the statement a broader terminology. One that everyone finds themselves a part of but particularly addresses those, who in the past, have found themselves, marginalized or can not find themselves in the language or terminology used.

The easily noted changes include the replacement of the word "sex" with "gender identity" and the addition of "economic situation".

As understanding of how an individual understands or expresses their gender identity has grown, the term sex, which has been understood to commonly equate as male or female has become a component of a more diverse spectrum of gender identity. Gender identity while including both male and female also expresses inclusion of those who may be transgender, represent as something other than they might have been identified at birth or in process of gender reassignment.

The committee has felt for some time that economic differences should be addressed and so suggests economic situation would encompass all everyone.

A more subtle change is the removal of the phrase "regardless of" from the opening sentence. We felt the phrase placed the congregation in the position of emphasis of our differences rather than embracing and welcoming those differences and weaving them into the fabric of the life of the church.

What concerns or questions do you have about the recommended language changes?