

Minutes
Church Council Meeting
November 2, 2014

In attendance:

Jill Mackey-Feist
Hal Salwasser
Jim Swinyard
Brooke Collison
Terry Bolin
Dave Straub
Elizabeth Nielsen

Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson
Rick Schroff
Jan Walker
Sherri Willard Argyres
Nita Phillips
Julie Christiansen
Cindy Dahl

Meeting called to order by Rick Schroff at 9:04 am. Cindy Dahl took notes.

Rev. Bonnie led the group in song to begin the meeting, and reported the Rev. Jim had gone to California on a family matter, and likely wouldn't be back in Corvallis for the meeting.

First order of business was Approval of the August 3, 2013 Minutes – Moved by J. Swinyard, Second by J. Mackey-Feist, approved without discussion.

Preparing for Church Conference – Clergy Compensation

Rev. Bonnie left the room. The Clergy Compensation summary was emailed to the Council in advance of the meeting.

Motion: To recommend the Clergy Compensation & Expense 2014 Summary Resolution for Revs. Bonnie and Jim to the Church Conference.

Moved by N. Phillips, Second by J. Walker

Discussion revolved around procedural components. Approved.

Motion: to approve the Health and Wellness Agreements with Revs. Bonnie and Jim.

Moved by J. Walker, Second by J. Swinyard.

Discussion – the Agreements were included in package emailed to Council. Bonnie and Jim have had this plan for the last two years. Bonnie described the purpose.

Approved. The Agreements will be signed by the lay leader team.

Motion: To approve the annual Clergy Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Moved by N. Phillips; Second by E. Nielsen

Discussion – the Policy was included in package emailed to Council. It is required by the IRS and provides operational guidelines for the church. Hal Salwasser noted

inconsistency in titles which will be corrected. Sherri Willard – Argyres noted in item 10 there is a reference to SPRC, where it should be Council.

Amended motion – to approve policy with corrections noted. N. Phillips and E. Nielsen agreed to changes to the motion.

Approved.

Motion: To approve the 2013 Trustees Report and send it to Church Conference.

Motion by N. Phillips; Second by J. Swinyard

Discussion: Jan Walker's term was listed incorrectly; ends 2013, not 2014

Titles in the conference report template don't fit the way the FUMC Council is organized.

The form needs to be revised to fit our structure; all Council members need to be listed.

N. Phillips amended the motion to include editorial changes as recommended. J.

Swinyard agreed to the amendment.

Approved.

Motion to approve April Hall Cutting's request that CFUMC be recognized as her church affiliation at Charge Conference for reporting purposes.

Moved by B. Collison; Second by N. Phillips

Discussion: April Hall–Cutting is currently on leave, and her husband has an appointment at McLaren Youth Correctional Facility. They live in Corvallis. April Hall-Cutting asked to be assigned to our Church.

Approved.

Discussion: Agenda of the Church Conference Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

5:30 Potluck in Community Center

6:30 Church Conference in Wesley Hall

Business of the Church Council

Nominating Report, Membership Report, Pastors' Compensation and Expense Resolution,

Approval of Lay Servants (formerly called Lay Speakers).

State of the Church Reports from Rev. Jim and Rick Schroff.

Word from the District Superintendent

Prayer Time.

Other reports received: Trustees Report, Financial Report, Reports from retired and located

pastors. Safe Sanctuary Policy Review report, Pastors' Health and Wellness Agreements.

Council Discussion: Discussion – We need to thank the nominating committee for their work. A suggestion was made to post the nominating report in the building and on the website prior to the meeting, so that the congregation has an opportunity to review nominations in advance of the vote, and to understand the process. Nomination

committee for next year is part of the report. Rev. Bonnie agreed to try to post the report in the building, and to ask Matt Gregory to post on the website.

7:30 Council (only) Meeting with Gwen Drake to discuss clergy needs, requests.

Any Council Member who can't attend the meeting needs to send comments with another Council member. The meeting will include a discussion of the process and timeline. The entire Council will serve as SPRC.

Motion: To approve the Confidentiality agreement for the Church Council.

Moved by H. Salwasser; Second by J. Walker

The Agreement was distributed to the Council via email prior to the meeting.

Discussion: A question was raised as to the consequence for breach of confidentiality. The Pastor(s) and Lay Leader would speak with anyone suspected of breaching policy.

Approved.

Copies of the policy were distributed for signature of all Council members, and collected.

Motion: To approve the Staffing Review and Assessment Report

Motion by J. Christiansen; Second by N. Phillips

Discussion: Details of the report are to be held in confidence by the Council, as they impact personnel issues. The full report is not ready to be approved, since the 2014 budget and July 1, 2014 clergy assignment are not known. Purpose of the report in its current form is to give input to D.S. Gwen Drake regarding clergy appointment and our intentions regarding staff.

From the report: *Appendix 2: Traits of Clergy*

Rev. Bonnie suggested that we choose a few key traits for our discussion with the D.S.

- Implementation of our Vision statements: Values the work we have done and wants to work with us to move forward
- Empowers and inspires laity – who works with laity to discern spiritual gifts, cultivate those gifts, and unleash those gifts into ministry.
- Facilitating Laity to implement our Vision (beyond delegating)
- Changing the metrics of success. Traditional metrics include – numbers in worship, numbers of meals served. More appropriate metrics will measure how we fulfill our vision.
- Our future is outside the walls of the church; it's how we minister to the larger community and world.
- Strong Administration of the church; support of new organizational model; support of Reconciling ministry/identity

Following Discussion, R. Schroff recommended tabling the motion, and providing the report to Gwen Drake in advance of the meeting on November 7th, along with a summary of this conversation.

Motion to Table – R. Schroff

Approved

Motion – The Church Council endorses the concept of the single pastor and lay assistant position, and will present this concept to Gwen Drake at the meeting on November 7th.

Motion- J. Swinyard, Second by D. Straub

Discussion – Pastors could have a discussion with staff about the work of the committee following the meeting with Gwen Drake. It should be emphasized that the committee evaluated position descriptions, not individual staff. Title need to be determined for new position assisting the Pastor. “Director of Mission and Ministries” will be the placeholder title for the time being.

Approved.

Report on new employees.

Pastor Bonnie reported on new employees hired to staff the Tuesday night suppers and overnight supervision for the Women’s Shelter (Room at the Inn).

Property Issues:

Motion: Jill Mackey-Feist and Jim Swinyard, as representatives of the Church Council, are given authority to meet with Rick Schroff, our Farmers Insurance Agent, to review the FUMC Corvallis insurance policy and approve the policy and premiums for the 2014 policy by Dec. 29, 2013.

Moved by H. Salwasser; Second by B. Collison

Approved.

Tabled motion on Building use policy changes from Natural Steps Ministry Team. Rev. Bonnie is working with Marge Stevens, Ann Bateman, Kim Burnap to develop a policy that will be workable and acceptable.

Finance Issues:

Report from the Treasurer and Finance Ministry Team

Jan Walker summarized the report from Ken Hilton for October 2013. The report was sent out to the Council via email prior to the meeting. Ken reported that all is in order. Cindy Dahl managed the stewardship campaign for this year, with support by the Executive Committee and Kim Burnap. Cindy Dahl suggested that a Stewardship chair for 2014 be identified soon, so that information and files can be transferred. Jan Walker noted that the church Council is responsible for ensuring an annual audit of the Church’s finances. This has been arranged for 2013.

Motion: To transfer the remaining money in the Designated Outreach Fund to the Designated Women's Shelter Fund. (approximately \$ 2,500.)

Moved by H. Salwasser; Second by J. Christiansen

Discussion: Jim Swinyard suggested that annual letter/email/phone contacts with faculty who park in the church lots include a suggestion that any donations made in consideration of parking will go to the Women's Shelter.

Approved.

Motion: To transfer \$ 5,000 from the General Fund Emerging Ministries Account (\$ 5,616 remaining from 2013 budget) to the Women's Shelter Fund).

Moved B. Collison; Second by H. Salwasser

Discussion – Funding for Women's Shelter and continuation of the shelter will be evaluated annually by the Council to be sure that it continues to be in line with the mission of the Church, and that it can be financed. The Room at the Inn Board will be asked to report to the May 2014 Church Council meeting.

Approved

Motion: To authorize Elizabeth Nielsen, Rick Schroff, Hall Salwasser, Jan Walker, Cindy Dahl, and Julie Christianson to meet in December 2013 after the completion of the Stewardship campaign to receive from Ken Hilton a final Budget proposal, to make changes as appropriate, and approve it as the Budget for 2014.

Moved by N. Phillips; Second by S. Willard-Argyres

Discussion: R. Schroff will call the meeting.

Approved.

Report from the Foundation Representative

Bylaws of the Foundation were distributed by Jan Walker. Bylaws were amended to reflect correct organizational designation (new Church Council structure). The changes to the bylaws need to be approved by the Church Council. Jan reviewed changes made.

Motion: Council approves the Revised Bylaws of the Corvallis United Methodist Foundation and Memorandum of Understanding between the Church Council and the Foundation.

Moved by J. Walker; Second by N. Philips

Discussion: Council members answered questions regarding the history of parsonage fund restrictions. The Foundation is evaluating options for investing in line with social values and principals, rather than the goal of maximizing returns. The Foundation Board consulted with an investment advisor. Action will not be taken until next Foundation Board meeting. Jan Walker recommended that whoever represents the Council on the Foundation Board be someone whose term on the Council continues for more than one year. Next representative will be elected in February 2014. Jan Walker will bring the final Bylaws for signature by Rick Schroff and Ann Foltz.

Approved.

Ministry Area Reports

Rev. Bonnie brought a list of the 75 active ministry groups that were identified in the congregation. The list has been on the information desk, and can be made available to the Council in electronic form.

Report from the **Mentoring Task Force** by Brooke Collison. A letter from the Task Force was distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. The letter is to be distributed to all ministry teams, enlisting their support in mentoring new members and leaders. The Task Force has conducted family issues classes, and encouraged congregation and Council members to invite visitors to worship to join them for coffee or lunch. Brooke shared his observations of the underwhelming response to that request, and at least one instance of a visitor being ignored during coffee hour. Several methods of officially identifying and welcoming visitors were discussed. Two of the members of the Task Force will be going off Church Council this year. The Task Force could become a ministry team, or could be reconstituted from Council members.

Report from Room at the Inn. Rev. Bonnie reported on the Shelter operations. By-laws were distributed in the Council packet. There were articles in the GT and the Barometer. The shelter opened last night (November 1st). Rev. Jim and Sara Power recruited a Board. Rev. Jim is interim chair of the Board through December, which makes him supervisor of the two new employees. Three grad students are heavily involved in applying for grants - \$15K received to date. Good connections being made with OSU staff and students. Safe sanctuary policy is being followed, with background checks on volunteers and clients are being done online, rather than by the Church office. A lot of work by many volunteers and staff made it possible.

Discussion included the operation of the shelter as a ministry of the church, rather than a separate entity. FUMC Corvallis has responsibility for supervision of staff and operations. The bylaws were written by Rev. Jim, with reference to bylaws for similar organizations, and in consultation with other shelters.

Other Business

Elizabeth Nielsen noted that Crater Lake District Training in Eugene – “Deepening the Discipleship Process in Your Church” will be held on February 23rd. It is described as a 4 hour training in the afternoon.

Next Meetings –

November 6th 7:30 pm, following Church Conference

February 1, 2014 – Chaired by Elizabeth Nielsen

Agenda Item: Annual Evaluation assisted by Kim Shockley

May 3, 2014