

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 13, 2011

Pastor Mary opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the meeting held September 15, 2011, were reviewed. Linda Phillips noted a correction for the report of the Welcoming Committee. We have 76 Jubilee members, not the 48 recorded in the minutes.

Trustees: Aaron Johnson, President of the Board of Trustees, reported the replacement of the roof of the Education Building has been completed and all bills have been paid. During the project, stones were loosened and blocked roof drains, causing significant water leakage into the building. The contractor assumed responsibility for the damage and repairs were completed at no cost to the Church. Aaron and Dave Loughlin described an Eagle Scout project that will landscape and upgrade the outdoor “patio” area used by Upper Room residents. Benches, plants, fencing and bicycle racks will be included in the project. Code Enforcement and DTSB have approved the plans and work will start as weather permits.

Upper Room: In the Upper Room there are currently 19 residents in the Upper Room, 2 women and 17 men. Applications have risen with the advent of cold weather and more residents are expected between now and December 1. Due to a grant from the Central Church Fund and a successful chili cook-off that raised \$2,569, revenue exceeds expenses so far for the year by \$177. The Upper Room Board of Directors has plans to be more proactive concerning finances in 2012.

Staff Parish: Larry Thompson, Sue Wright and Pastor Mary reported on the Weather Amnesty program approved by the Council at a special meeting held November 1, 2011. The project has been named Project W.A.R.M. (Weather Amnesty Relief Ministry). The project is fully funded for the year by a grant from the district and pledges from Clay, Grace and Northwest churches. HOPE Ministries has agreed to provide staff and training. HOPE will also provide policies and procedures for staff and guests. Staff will be present from 7:30 p.m. through 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be scheduled from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. Vineyard Church volunteers will manage a Facebook page being designed for volunteer sign-up. Vineyard Church has also purchased sleeping mats which have been delivered. A telephone will be available in the room, as well as panic button that connects to the Police Department. Virginia Black from the South Bend Tribune will be notified that we are ready to discuss this project with her for an article she has been waiting to write. We will emphasize the cooperative effort of all churches involved while highlighting the donation of the space by our church that makes this effort possible.

Finance: Jerry Langley, Chair of Finance, gave an update on the plan to request money from the Trinity Trust to pay for the roof replacement. We are going to follow established procedures to request the money and submit a request to the trustee, Wells Fargo. If the trustee denies the request, we then will proceed to make a challenge to the tightly restricted Trust in the courts. A motion was made to withdraw \$55,000 from the trust to be used exclusively to pay for roof replacement. The motion was approved unanimously and the request will be presented to the Charge Conference on November 30, 2011 for approval.

Dave Loughlin moved that we request quarterly distribution of interest earned from the Trinity Trust in 2012. Norm Forrest seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. This is a motion that must be made annually in order to receive money from Trinity Trust, which is heavily restricted.

Carolyn Roush clarified that people can donate funds to maintain the church building without donating them to the Trinity Trust in order to avoid some of the restrictions placed on the Trust funds.

Jerry Langley reviewed his meeting with representatives from 1st Source Bank regarding establishing credit for the church. He has received a proposal to provide a \$50,000 line of credit and up to \$200,000 term loan converting to a 5 year term loan with 10 year amortization. If needed, the \$200,000 would be secured with a first mortgage on the church property. We would also move our banking business to 1st source and explore moving management of the Trinity Trust.

Jerry Langley presented a pie chart showing expense categories as percent of total expenses for 2011. With that basis, he explained a handout or a proposed budget for 2012. The proposed budget includes total expenses of \$425, 434.65. Included for the first time are line items for the projected \$2,000 monthly deficit in the Upper Room (\$24,000 yearly total) and \$965.35 surplus to move us on the road to financial stability. In order to have expenses, \$385,000 will be required in pledged income. Jerry and Larry Thompson shared that to date we have 99 “unites” who have made pledges totaling \$244,000. The average yearly pledged amount has dropped from \$3,000 in 2011 to \$2,600 for 2012. If we do not receive enough pledges to cover the proposed expenses a revised budget will be presented to the Council in January, 2012.

Chair of Wills and Legacies: Bill Welsheimer reported that the Wills and Legacies Committee is having difficulties receiving quarterly statements from the United Methodist Foundation in a timely manner. The committee hasn't met since summer due to this delay. Two of the funds managed by UM Foundation lost 12% and 10% respectively in the last quarter reported. The committee may consider moving management of the funds because of these issues.

UMM (United Methodist Men): Dave Loughlin reported that the United Methodist Men have re-chartered, as have the Boy Scouts.

Education: Pauline Medhurst, Chair of Education Committee, reported activities of the Education Commission. A group met with the pastor from First Presbyterian Church in Mishawaka to learn about their activities with an elementary school. The Council gave approval to pursue a relationship with Madison Primary Center. The devotional book was finished for Fall. Two teachers are needed for children's Sunday School for April and May of 2012. On December 11th a party will be held from 5:00-7:30 p.m. for children, their parents and friends. Everyone is encouraged to invite un-churched children and come join the fun.

Welcoming: Linda Phillips, Chair of the Welcoming Committee, reported that the 180th celebration was a big success, with 185 people in attendance that Sunday. Our average attendance at both services is now 151. We have had 36 first time visitors over the last 9 weeks. A new member class that will be held December 14th has 15 possible new members.

Stewardship: Larry Thompson reported that the Stewardship Committee continues to follow up with those who have not yet submitted a pledge

Memorials: Mary Gergesha reported that the Memorials Committee has purchased new altar cloths for the chapel from donations made in memory of Morris Zink. The new sign purchased with funds including a contribution from the estate of Jack Fassnacht is up and running. Favorable comments were shared.

UMW (United Methodist Women): Helen Banas, United Methodist Women President, reported that the UMW group will join a group from Elkhart for an upcoming meeting. They continue to have successful, productive meetings.

Missions: Sue Church reported that Missions will receive 35 turkeys from Family Video to distribute. The Boy Scout Venture Group will help distribute food from the Food Pantry in December. Food costs continue to rise, so Sue attended a meeting to learn about grant writing and plans to try to write a successful grant.

Norm Forrest: Norm Forrest presented suggestions from a group tasked with advancing the church forward. These suggestions concerned ensuring recognition of those groups that serve the church, such as pictures of groups on church bulletin boards, pictures/videos shown on the Sanctuary screens before the beginning of the prelude on Sunday mornings, pictures with captions in the First Word, encouraging church members to discuss church service work in relationships outside the church, pictures with captions in our Civic Theater program page, and asking church members to submit groups that deserve recognition. It was decided that the council will appoint a task force after the first of the year to ensure this doesn't fall through the cracks.

With Advent quickly approaching, the need to get Christmas decorations ready was discussed.

Nominations: As Chair of Nominations, Pastor Mary presented a handout outlining officers for 2012. For this coming year, Pauline Medhurst will not be Chair of Education Commission. Mary thanked Pauline for her outstanding service. The Council agreed with applause.

Cluster Church Updates:

- Pastor Mary reported that we will host a Service of Remembrance for our Cluster Churches. The service, which offers encouragement and comfort to those who struggle with loss at this time of year, will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.