

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
January 21, 2020
6 pm at the church

REVISION 1

The meeting was called to order by President Ina Eckert at 6:05 p.m. and prayer was given by Pastor Darrin Holub.

Individuals Present:

Council Members – Bill Comiskey, Ina Eckert, Clyde Engelbrecht, Jodell Hodde, Madeline Johnson, Jeff Krolczyk, Christy Moran, James Press

Individuals – Pastor Darrin Holub, Ann Pape, Larry Winkelmann

Minutes from Previous Meeting – the minutes were shared with all via email report prior to; Ina Eckert asked for any concerns with notes presented. Bill Comiskey made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, 2nd by James Press, all voted in approval; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Pape had provided the report previously electronically. There were no questions at the meeting, but the following comments were given:

-Ina Eckert asked Ann Pape if she liked the Quick Books program as a new software and she said that it made it a lot easier for check generation and distribution.

-Bill Comiskey said that Ann Pape was part of the Budget Committee that put together the 2019 budget. If the Anniversary would not have been an expense this year, the budget was right on point – Revenues were within 2% and expenses were within 1% - Great job!

-Ann Pape stated that offering giving has been really well

-Ina Eckert stated that attendance has been up too

-Bill Comiskey concluded that we had income for the year which is very good and a change from the past and contributed that to increased contributions.

Clyde Engelbrecht. moved to approve/accept the treasurer's report and a 2nd was made by Jodell Hodde. No discussion or votes against; the motion to accept was approved.

Investment Report (including Memorial Fund): As of January 22, 2020, the Investments report shows the current CD balance is \$92,098.68, the Savings balance is \$108,492.05 and the additional church funds show a balance of \$19,600.10.

Larry Winkelmann asked if there were any questions about the reports.

There was interest on a CD \$154.17 which was deposited in the Cemetery Fund.

There are a lot of memorials coming in currently from the Emshoff, Glenz, Barber funerals.

The Building Fund is up as checks are still coming in from oil lease. Chesapeake check deposited and transferred. Year End figures for each fund were stated in reports. Few transactions so far this year other than memorial deposits.

Then, Larry Winkelmann went over all the signature cards that our church has and who is on them. There are many cards and some will need names changed. Larry Winkelmann has a list of all the signature cards, who is on them and which ones need to be changed. Larry Winkelmann and Pastor Darrin will work on this.

A motion was made by Bill Comiskey to accept Investment Report with a 2nd from Clyde Engelbrecht. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

A/V, Website Management Salary

At the September meeting, a Website Management Proposal was discussed. A budget of \$2000 for these services was set after speaking with Denton Shippey about needs for this project.

No one has been able to find in notes a salary amount for AV work/technical services done in the past. Ann Pape said that we have paid \$20 per hour for operating AV equipment in the past at services. Currently, Jeff

Krolczyk, Danny Douglas and Lauren Hodde do AV work on Sunday services and volunteer this. However, recently Denton Shippey did some work (3 hours) for a funeral and asked to be paid. Ann Pape needs to know what rate per hour to pay him. The discussion went back and forth on this pay and was intermingled with discussion on website hosting/set-up/updates.

Bill Comiskey said that we budgeted 2000.00 for website and Ina stated that according to Minutes, it would take \$1900 a year to do website maintenance for church. Bill Comiskey suggested \$150 per month. Charles Stark got \$60 per month. The set up was estimated at \$800 and if do \$20-\$40 per week to do the website, that would be on average \$160 per month.

After much discussion and back and forth on this, a motion was made to pay \$20 per worship service to an AV person and \$20 per hour for events needing special services (weddings, funerals, etc.) This motion was made by James Press with a 2nd by Bill Comiskey and approved.

For the Website, Pastor Darrin will tell Denton Shippey about hourly rate and talk to him about starting website initial set up. Darrin Holub has been researching getting a credit card for the church and Citizen's State Bank is setting this up. Madeline Johnson suggested that if Denton Shippey wants to start the website and needs funds to purchase the host, a Paypal account can be set up and funds withdrawn from checking account as needed. Pastor Darrin will work on this.

And, finally, a motion was made by Madeline to pay Denton (as Website manager who also does the power point slides for church services) \$20 per hour not to exceed \$160 per month for weekly services. Also, the motion included to pay him up to \$20 per hour not to exceed \$800 to set up the website initially. Jodell made 2nd to this motion. Motion carried.

Maintenance Technician

Pastor Darrin said that James Schlottmann resigned from Maintenance technician at church and Bobby Garza has offered to take on this task. Pastor Darrin told Bobby Garza of the expectation and they looked at list. Pastor Darrin said that there are some things that this person does not need to do and that he can take care of. One priority currently being worked on is a urinal in the Family Life Center restroom that is leaking and needs work. Bobby Garza will make time to do these maintenance tasks on his own time. Pastor Darrin will order needed supplies at this time and Bobby does not want to handle a credit card. A rate of \$25 per hour was suggested in a motion by Clyde Engelbrecht, with a 2nd by Christy Moran and the motion carried. Pastor Darrin said that Bobby Garza does not always turn in and has done work for the church as a volunteer in the past. Pastor Darrin will keep Bobby Garza updated on church's maintenance needs.

Glen & Dottie Scholarship Recommendations

Ina Eckert brought up the need to review the recommendation prepared by the scholarship committee for the Glen & Dottie Scholarship. Prior to discussion, Ina Eckert said according to Steve Miller's presentation at a previous council meeting the program was never approved at any congregation's meeting or known action of the council. Ina Eckert found council minutes from April 9, 2013 when a presentation was made stating that Ron Hall gave \$25,000 to start this and a church committee to manage. A motion was approved. In the February 2014 church newsletter, St. John's Spirit, Ina Eckert read an entry titled "a scholarship education opportunity - To provide an opportunity for a higher education, a scholarship fund has been established in the name of St. John's UCC, Glen & Dottie Schoeneberg Fund Scholarship Fund started by Ronald E. Hall Trust. This fund will provide financial assistance to students. These monies are awarded based on merit, desire, activities and community service. Academic financial awards do not have to be paid back. These scholarships will apply to any certified school of higher education or trade school. We encourage members of our church and community to donate to this fund. It is a 501 c charitable donation, Please make checks payable to St. John's UCC Scholarship Fund P.O. Box 180 Burton, Texas 77833"

At this time, Bill Comiskey stated it is not a 501 C, as never filed reports.

The following concerns were shared:

- There have never been any written rules or regulations
- Different amounts are given each year
- There has been no limit to the amount and number of recipients each year
- Scholarships were given to all that applied, many were not associated with church or even local
- The recommendation says Burton Senior or those in surrounding communities, this is vague on who can apply. This changed from being offered multiple years.
- Mission statement is too broad

A lot of questions arose about this scholarship program:

Qualifications?

Criteria?

Church Scholarship or not?

Who funds?

Further discussion included:

The money matters of this scholarship have never been managed by the church...They have never been in church funds/accounts, checks written from church or the exchange of monies reported in church reports. If the church is managing the scholarship, it has to be part of the business in terms of record-keeping and decision making.

The committee that started the scholarship was Larry Winkelmann, Steve Miller, Ron and Dixie Hall. Larry Winkelmann stated it was noted that Ron Hall is stepping off the committee and not make decisions, but will continue to give the money.

Jeff Krolczyk asked if this should be given every year. He commented that perhaps a set number of scholarships can be given and any remaining money invested for future when perhaps the financial gifts were not there.

James Press said that criteria needs to be added for this application. St. John's members need to be granted scholarships first and criteria has to be met to receive one. Madeline Johnson volunteered to prepare a guideline draft of criteria for the committee to consider, using the current application.

At the September 10 council meeting, Steve Miller did a presentation and asked for scholarship clarifications and it was questioned about this being a church project. A committee was assigned to meet and bring this before council. Bill Comiskey and Dean Fuchs were appointed to join Larry Winkelmann, Steve Miller and Ron Hall on this work. At the time Steve requested getting this on the budget as a budgeted item and provide \$5,000 on an annual basis.

The question still lies as to the mission (currently too vague), the parameters (need criteria) and policy for management (run by church or not, church money or not and if so, needs to be budgeted and decisions made by the church/congregation)

With no consensus and unsettled discussion, this agenda item was tabled. The proposed recommendation will go back to the committee.

At this time, Larry Winkelmann and Ann Pape left the meeting.

No other unfinished business brought to the meeting.

New Business:

Council member resignation –

This was not on the agenda, but Ina Eckert called on Madeline Johnson who shared that she would be resigning from the church council effective at the end of this meeting due to Wes's health issues and needs with family life. She has 2 years left on the council, so not sure how to handle. Ina Eckert stated that according to the by-laws, a majority vote of the council can replace her. It was discussed that the nominating committee of Jason Hodde, Ina Eckert and Blake Emmitt should make the nomination for her replacement. All

were charged to think of someone to fill this 2 year spot and Madeline Johnson will be thinking about this and come up with recommendations for the committee. This will be announced at the annual meeting as well to search out any volunteers. Jeff Krolczyk asked about gender balance and there are no rules on this, but he said that he thought there was an unwritten rule/suggestion to try to find someone to fill a position of the same gender. Ina stated that the Bylaws state that there is to be 12 people on the council and a representative sample of the church. No further discussion on this.

Ina Eckert and the council thanked Madeline Johnson for her efforts and contributions as a councilman and noted that she will be missed.

Finalize annual meeting agenda-

Ina passed out a copy of the meeting agenda for Annual meeting to be held Sunday, January 26. It was noted that we have 403 current members and that 10% would be need for a quorum, so 41 needed. Ina will ask Jerry Guelker to do the notes/minutes in Blake Emmitt's absence. The reports were listed on the agenda and feel that a motion to accept all reports can be made vs. approving each one separately.

Christy Moran suggested that copies of the report be emailed to the congregation for review. Hard copies will also be made to have in the church the day of the meeting

Building Manager Resignation –

Pastor Darrin reported that Mickie Angerame has resigned from this position at the beginning of the year, effective January 31, 2020

Pastor Darrin asked if this is a position that needs to be filled. He went over the list of job duties and stated that the full time staff at the church can do many of these tasks as they come up on a day to day basis (locking and un-locking doors, security at the church, minor maintenance needs, etc.) Pastor Darrin has the job duty list if anyone wishes to see it. Christy Moran then made a motion to not re-hire for this position at this time and further reconsider the need in the future. Pastor Darrin will take care of tasks and keep us apprised of what comes up and re-evaluate need at that time. James Press made a 2nd to this motion and the motion carried.

A comment was also made that perhaps certain tasks could be delegated out to council members for oversight on needs such as this. June Makowsky will continue to clean at St. John's (her job duties and list of areas are available) and Tommy and Mickie Angerame will also continue their cleaning duties at St. John's (their job duties and list of areas are available)

A/V Operation issues –

Jeff Krolczyk shared some concerns and need to potentially make some A/V purchases in the future.

The screen on the pulpit side was having issues, but is now ok. He suggested that instead of replacing projector in the future, that a large TV might be a better option.

Also, the projector went out in the FLC and when he researched this he found that there are conversions issues as well as the equipment got hot. He has propped up this projector so it will get better air and not get hot. All of this is currently working, but will need to keep an eye on it.

Dean Fuchs had mentioned before about a portable PA system for use at the cemetery. Jeff Krolczyk said that there is a portable system and speakers that could be used. Older and bulkier but one is available.

Also, there are cordless mics to use for people speaking from the pew and we need to remember to use them, especially for folks that are using the hearing impaired devices. Pastor Darrin will also remind the congregation of these being available as not sure anyone is using them at this time.

Charity Reserve Committee request –

Clyde Engelbrecht stated that we are currently blessed to have a large increase in funds. As of January 16, balance is \$1,104,832.00. Last year, we took a withdraw early in year and put into CD. The committee would like to ask to withdraw \$75,000 and put in savings for future grants. Christy Moran made a motion to approve this and Bill Comiskey made a 2nd. Motion carried.

Council Dinner –

It was discussed that we look into having the annual Council Dinner on Friday, February 21st at JWs in Carmine at 6 pm. James Press will contact them to inquire about reservation for 35 for this date.

Other-

No other comments at this time.

Spiritual Time:

Pastor Darrin discussed the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament...Chapter 19, verse 33.

This talks about when a stranger resides with you, don't oppress the stranger, but rather let them be a citizen among you.

He told a story of being at a Cefco gas station in Giddings and went to a gas pump which looked really weird. It wasn't a gas pump, but rather a charging station for a car like a Tesla, an electric car. He questioned why Giddings, Texas would have this, but then thought about how welcoming this was to passers-through who may be driving a car that would need a charge instead of gasoline. He commented that these would be strangers, not locals, but that we should be welcoming of strangers no matter where we are. This relates to the church as well. He said that this church welcomes people very well. People say we are a friendly church. He has personal testimony as he has visitors that come that he knew from previous congregations or towns and they comment on how friendly we are. He said that he felt like was once a stranger among this church and felt welcomed. Bottom line, we have to do good for all, strangers or people we know.

Reports Previously Submitted –

Pastor – Darrin Holub

Maintenance – Darrin Holub

Christian Education – Christy Moran

Charity Reserve – Clyde Engelbrecht

Worship Committee – Kathy Emmett

Retirement Letter – Cindy Miller

Further discussions:

-Christy Moran asked about the intention of the Children's Church in the Worship Committee report. She said that they are struggling to continue to find willing volunteers to help with the many tasks of CE and Sunday School and youth group, and having another children's component added that needs volunteers doesn't make sense. Plus, these kids would have just been in Sunday School and then go back to the FLC instead of staying in the church service. Pastor Darrin shared that he thinks this is to have a place for kids maybe not nursery age but too young to sit through the service to have something to do. Nothing has been finalized on this.

-Cindy Miller's retirement letter was reviewed and the LLM job was discussed. Pastor Darrin said that David Greer helps with reading scriptures and communion as a volunteer. We talked about having a list of lay readers again and also having young people help with the service as much as possible.

-Jeff Krolczyk mentioned that 2 pews are now removed at the front of the church and they have been playing at 8 and 10 am services and leaving equipment set up for Praise Team and have heard good comments about this.

-Christy Moran asked about the February work schedule and Ina Eckert said Dean Fuchs would make this.

James Press moved to adjourn the meeting and Christy Moran shared a 2nd. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be held on February 18th at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Moran, Council Member

