

CHURCH COUNCIL

HAMLIN CHURCH UNITED METHODIST

JANUARY 19, 2016

PRESENT: Chair Raymond Faust, Sharon Fields, David Purcell, Bill Kimes, Jim Schlaeppi, Mindy Greiling, Mark Krueger, Linda Krueger, Kathy Sundberg, Virginia Anderson, John LeFevre, Jeff Bouslog, Pastor Mariah Tollgaard, Wayne Wolsey

I. Chair Ray Faust convened the meeting of the new Church Council at 7:00 pm on January 19, 2016.

II. Pastor Mariah Tollgaard welcomed the group and led us through an installation ritual; which focused **on the church** Mission, Vision, and Values; and an opening prayer. Council members reviewed church activities which illustrated the Mission, Vision, and Values.

III. As part of our self-introductions, we shared information about our backgrounds and something which shaped our lives.

IV. We were led by Pastor Mariah through a brief overview of the new church governance structure (single board format) and functionality as well as typical flow of information and areas of responsibility. A question was raised about the difference between a Church Conference (all members present can vote) and a Charge Conference (only Church Council members vote). Town Hall meetings with the congregation will be held periodically. A Church Conference will be convened in late May for election of leaders and for a vote on proceeding further with the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI). In response to a query about information interchange between the Church Council and the Core Ministry Team, Pastor Mariah replied that information from the Ministry Teams should be available to all church members, but that perhaps an occasional report from a selected Ministry Team could be on the Church Council agenda. The matter will be discussed with the Core Ministry Team.

Whether the Trustees need to meet separately was discussed. When a Trustees issues comes up, we will be convening as a Trustees Meeting for the period of time necessary to complete that agenda. Similarly, when SPRC issues come up, if confidentiality issues should arise, and also when the District Superintendent requests a meeting with SPRC, the Church Council may meet in closed session, with others needing to absent themselves. The minutes would reflect such closed sessions.

V. On the Consent Agenda were Minutes of the November 17, 2015 Church Council/Church Conference meeting, Trustees' recommendations for Approval of 2016 Growth Grants along with Approval of Keystone Community Services temporary space rental in the Theater for Foodmobile, and the Finance Committee December 2015 Report.

Mindy Greiling moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. Mark Krueger pointed out that the minutes of the November 17 meeting stated incorrectly that the Audit Team had completed its audit of past accounts (Section IX)—it should state that the Audit Team is working on its audit of past accounts. The motion as amended, after seconding, was approved by voice vote.

V. As established in the Discipline, Officers of the Trustees are chosen by the Trustees as well as the Investment Committee Officers, and ratified by the Church Council. The Church Council formally convened as the Hamline Church Board of Trustees. A motion was made by Linda Krueger to endorse the slate of Trustee Officers as follows: Kathy Sundberg, President; David Purcell, Vice-President, and Liaison to the Investment Committee; and Jeff Bouslog, Secretary; along with the following Investment Committee Officers: Peter Theisen, Chair and authorized signer, Roger Greiling, member and authorized signer; David Purcell, Trustee Liaison; Rev Mariah Tollgaard *ex-officio*. The motion, after seconding, was approved by voice vote.

VI. The 2016 Investment Committee Projections were deferred until the February meeting of Church Council. Pastor Mariah noted that the former CGS building was sold to Trinity City Church on December 31, 2015 for \$554,000. The proceeds are going into the growth and reserve funds.

VII. On behalf of the Finance committee, Mark Krueger presented the 2016 Church Operating Budget. He noted that the 2015 Operating Budget ended with a positive balance of \$58,000, with a boiler bill still pending. The 2016 budget shows a Total Income of \$522,770 with a Total Expense of \$544,470, with a deficit of \$21,404. The pledge drive resulted in total pledges/tithes of \$303,710 from 113 (same as 2015) pledging units. The midyear end of the lease with the Bilingual School and Child Care is a factor in the deficit. New this year is the inclusion of \$6,000 in interest from the Income Endowment Fund. Non-pledge income of \$45,000 is predicted along with \$50,000 from the Dining Hall (Street Rod Show plus State Fair) operation. Copies of the budget are available from the Church Office.

A motion was made and seconded that the 2016 Church Operating Budget be approved as presented, with a few minor changes as discussed. After seconding, the motion passed by voice vote, with one dissenting voice.

VIII. Pastor Mariah and Sharon Fields introduced the Healthy Church Initiative (an effort to increase HCUM vitality and effectiveness), in which we are currently in the first phase of a two year process. Approval for entering the first phase (a period of learning and self-study) was given by a vote of the Church Council at its September meeting. Rev. Cindy Gregorson (Conference Director of Ministries) is serving as a consultant. The HCI project is part of the Annual Conference 3R program (Refresh, Renew, Rejoice) to which HCUM has made a three year financial commitment. Our HCI Leadership Team (Barb Deming, Maggie Nancarrow, Sharon Fields, Gil Young, Jan Bajuniemi, and Pastor Mariah) is working on the self-study and gathering information.

Rev. Gregorson will meet with the Church Council and the HCI Leadership Team on February 16. In a Consultation Weekend, March 18-20, Church Council members are invited to participate in the Saturday morning staff/leadership teaching session and a lunch-time focus group. A result of this process will be the identification of the congregation's strengths, weaknesses, and 5 Strategic Recommendations. A Church Conference will be held on May 22 to vote on the adoption of the Strategic Recommendations. It is essential to adopt all 5 Recommendations in order to receive further coaching support from the Annual Conference.

Mindy Greiling inquired about the necessity of approving all five strategic recommendations. Pastor Mariah stated that the entire package of 5 Strategic Recommendations must be adopted for a church to continue with HCI. Sharon Fields talked about the Mission Statement being a basis for our Operating Budget. Communication with the congregation is vital to this program.

IX. The Ministries represented by the Ministry Core Team were the basis of an active discussion. The Ministry Core Team will meet 2-4 times per year for communication between the various Ministries. Not clear is how much communication is necessary with the Church Council. Council members seemed to feel that some communication would be desirable. One option suggested by Pastor Mariah was for a particular Ministry to give a summary of activities and needs at a given Council meeting. This issue would be discussed at the January 21 Ministry Core Team meeting.

It was noted by Jim Schlaeppli that the Social Justice/Missions group does not need to get approval for a particular food project. Some coordination on fundraisers by different groups is desirable, so as to minimize overlapping. Some authority has already been delegated—Social Justice/Missions has been functioning as the “guardian” responsible for special collections.

X. A motion was made by Sharon Fields to adjourn the meeting. After seconding, the motion passed and the meeting closed at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne C. Wolsey, Secretary of Church Council