

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
HAMLINE CHURCH, UNITED METHODIST
MAY 17, 2016**

PRESENT: Chair Ray Faust, Mindy Greiling, Steve Bloom, Bill Kimes, John LeFevre, Sharon Fields, Kathy Sundberg, Linda Krueger, Mark Krueger, David Purcell, Jeff Bouslog, Ray Faust, Jim Schlaepfi, Wayne Wolsey

I. Chair Ray Faust convened the Church Council meeting on May 17, 2016 at 7:02 pm. In the absence of Pastor Tollgaard, he gave an opening prayer.

II. The Consent Agenda contained the minutes of the April 19 Church Council meeting along with the minutes of the May 8 Church Conference. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, which was passed by voice vote.

III. Sharon Fields presented an overview of the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) status, upon the recent strong endorsement by the congregation, and future steps. She stated that the approval by 95.1% of those members voting was one of the highest approvals. On May 22, a Recommissioning of the HCI committee will occur, with Lead Consultant Rev. Cindy Gregorson and our designated Coach Mimi Heines both being present; Rev. Gregorson will be giving the sermon. A Visioning session on June 7 will include the HCI committee and the Church Council. A Town Hall Forum and Church Conference are scheduled for June 12. Sharon explained that the individual forward changes within the Five Strategic Recommendations of the Consultative Report are meant more as “directional suggestions” rather than directives.

IV. Kathy Sundberg reported for the Trustees.

A. 2016 Capital Improvements

1. Electricity and Heat Updates: We’ve moved to LED lights and smaller fluorescents. There is a noticeable savings (21%) in Kilowatt Hours Usage. Steam traps which have been replaced have allowed a reduction of natural gas consumed.

2. Parlor kitchen equipment: We have purchased the kitchen equipment from the Bilingual Childcare for \$5,700 and two months rent forgiveness. A new freezer will be purchased.

3. Carpets in the three daycare rooms will be replaced and a new sink/counter will be installed in one.

4. The final phase of alarm system and rekeying will be finished this summer. The new tenant will help with \$4,000.

5. The roofs over the sanctuary NE (30 yr. old) and the NW (leaking) stairwell roofs will be replaced.

6. A gate valve, serving the sewer system of the lower level north restrooms, will be replaced.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote to **endorse** the Trustees’ report on **2016 Capital Improvements**.

B. Preschool Update/Summer Transition Plan

1. Midwest Child Development (MCD) will be replacing the Bilingual Childcare and Education Center with the transition taking place over the summer.

A three-year lease for the Midwest Child Development, currently operating in the HHH Jobs Corps Center, was discussed. It was noted that the rental increases yearly, and that the realtor firm which located them is getting a commission. The **lease was approved** by motion, seconding, and voice vote.

2. A Shared Space Agreement for the period of June 19 to August 19 for the overlap period of Bilingual Child Care and MCD was discussed. All parties have agreed to the terms. A motion to ratify the **Shared Space Agreement** as presented by the Trustees was made. With seconding, the motion was **approved** by voice vote.

3. The MCD director has asked us to consider adding an egress door to a first floor classroom. At present they only have four infants, for which an egress exit is not required. If the number of infants was to increase in the future, it would become an issue. The Council discussed the situation. If one were to be constructed, it would likely be part of the classroom furthest to the west. Kathy had learned, via the Internet, that a suitable door might run around \$4,000. The addition would not require approval based upon the historic status of the main church building, but aesthetics would need to be addressed. It was the consensus of Council members that an architect drawing and estimate should be obtained.

A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** by voice vote to approve the **Trustees' report**.

V. Mindy Greiling, from the Staff Parish Relations Committee, reported that SPRC members had been urging **Pastor Mariah** to practice self-care just as she cares for HCUM. The Minnesota Conference committee recently approved a Continuing Education/Spiritual Renewal Leave for her. Clergy are eligible for this leave every four years, and she has not had such a leave in seven years. **She will be on leave June 26-August 1**, including a one-week vacation. Pulpit arrangements have been made, with some financial assistance from the Conference. Questions were raised about pastoral care support. Some remembered the past excellent support from Rev. Mary Keen. More information will be sought from Pastor Mariah.

Pastor Mariah had prepared a Staffing Update, including Student Workers along with Nursery Workers and their pay scales. Some of the HU students are doing their federal Work-Study grant at HCUM, as is permitted for non-profit organizations. Such students need to "qualify" for work-study. In the discussion, it was pointed out that student workers will frequently tend to be "transitory", with academic year breaks, study abroad opportunities, *etc.* Other students may be Interns, receiving academic credit. Recruiting and retention of student workers can be a problem, with the minimum wage pay scale being a significant factor. It was recommended that we need to obtain comparative pay rates for other student positions from the appropriate HU office, as well as what other groups offer for general jobs vs. internships. The sentiment was expressed that "we should set a good example as a church and as an employer." It was noted that our student office workers are doing high-level computer work.

VI. The Summer Church Council Schedule was reviewed. Church Council members will participate in the **June 7 Visioning Session (6-9 pm)**. **June 12 will bring a Town Hall Meeting** and Church Conference.

VII. The Financial report was reviewed. Income is above budget. Recent expenses exceeded income for April, but overall expenses are below budget. An apportionment payment of \$20,000 is projected to be made in May. Offering income tends to go down in the summer months, but this is counterbalanced to some extent with the annual parking lot rental income. There are some other funds from which transfers could be made.

VIII. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote to **adjourn at 7:57 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne C. Wolsey, Secretary of Church Council