

Hamline Church United Methodist Church Council

Meeting Minutes

9/20/16

Attending: Ray Faust, Pastor Mariah Furness Tollgaard, Victoria Brenner, Linda Krueger, Sharon Fields, David Purcell, Jim Schleppe, Bill Kimes, Jason Freund, Mark Krueger, Todd Jones

Opening Prayer – The meeting began with an opening prayer from Pastor Mariah at 7:06 pm.

The Council was introduced to Angela Kapp, Director of our new preschool tenant, Midwest Child Development. Her centers grew out of the Head Start program originally. The program operates on the basis of 7 pillars; relationships, positive interactions, education, environment, curriculum, authentic assessment, and community. As part of this, the program overstaffs relative to mandated minimums, and is reaching out to other parts of the Hamline community e.g. the Hamline Midway Elders. The school is accredited, is a Saint Paul Public Schools partner location, and is in the process of being recertified with Parent Aware as part of their relocation. There is potential for growth in infant care and after-school care, provided the facilities can be suitably modified.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Church Council Minutes

Interim Music Director Offer Letter

The council reviewed the church council minutes and the interim music director offer letter. A motion to approve was made by Victoria B., seconded by Sharon F. An error was noted in the end of interim period date, which should be corrected to June 12, 2017. The modified articles were approved by voice vote, no dissension.

Altar for All – Reconciling Ministry Resolution

The Altar for All resolution was presented by Pastor Mariah. This resolution represents a recommended approach for congregations wishing to honor the general legality of marriage as expressed in the United States under current law. Current Methodist practice suggests that churches that follow this path will not be brought forward for discipline by the bishop. At least 6 other churches in our conference have adopted this resolution or something similar. Potential repercussions are highest for the pastor. Pastor Mariah has conducted LGBT marriages, but not in this church, as the church has not had this discussion. The goal is to move forward on this discussion within the church prior to receiving any requests, so that we have a clear affirmation of this path. A vote at the church conference is not required, but given the sensitivity of this issue the council is recommending that it be discussed and voted upon at the November 17 Church Conference.

A motion was made by Dave P., seconded by Jim S., for Church Council to approve the Altar for All resolution. This motion passed with unanimous approval.

A motion was made by Linda K., seconded by Sharon F., that this resolution be voted on by the congregation at an upcoming Church Conference on November 17. This motion passed with unanimous approval.

Adoption of Growth Grant Guidelines for 2017

The growth grant guideline discussion was led by Pastor Mariah and Ray Faust. The most notable change to the guidelines going forward is that proposals should be related to the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) direction. Proposals should thus demonstrate an ability to grow membership, revenue, or enhance the spirituality, and specify how the proposal is related to an HCI recommendation. Jim S. and Ray F. volunteered to assist with the grant process.

It was moved Jim S., seconded by Victoria B., that the modified guidelines be accepted as submitted. This motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Minnehaha Sign Proposal Update

An update was provided by Linda K. on the status of the sign effort. The city requires that temporary banners not be used on signs, or that the church pay the city each time the sign is changed. A quote for an enclosed banner position raised the price of the sign by \$4300. Based on this, the sign has been modified to remove the banner position. The variance has been applied for. Construction will not be approved until the trustees have determined the full list of building expenditures pending.

HCI Update

a. Recommendation Teams

HCI Recommendation team membership lists have been drafted. The first team to begin work has been the Resource and Ministry audit. Sharon F. discussed the team's initial activities, including developing a congregational survey, and assessing how our expenditures relate to our various activities, with an initial deadline of November. The Branding and Communications team has begun meeting to establish direction. The Building team has a large task, including esthetics, capital improvements, "green" value, and opportunity for grants related to historic preservation.

Dining Hall Update

An update on the Dining Hall financial performance in 2016 was provided by Mark Krueger. The Car Show grossed \$51000, a near-record level. Unfortunately, expenses were at \$52000, due in part to "catch-up" from last year, as well as expenses that didn't have to be spent during the Fair. However, the question of the value of continuing to do the Car Show will be discussed at an upcoming Dining Hall committee meeting, and a recommendation will be brought to Church Council. This is the first time this has happened. The volume of customers, however, was reduced, probably in part due to increased competition. We also saw decreased volunteers for the show.

Final results from the fair are not in, but we grossed \$190000, a record by \$19000 – an improvement over the previous year. This is largely driven by the ice cream sales. A decision needs to be made about continuing forward with the dining hall, as there are significant capital improvements needed if we intend to continue. It was also more difficult to recruit volunteers this year – possibly due to the

increasing demands for other volunteer events. Multiple options are under consideration, including alternative sources of volunteers, a reduced menu, up to next year being the final year for the Dining Hall. The Dining Hall committee will come back with additional recommendations in the near term.

Budget Process – 2017

Sharon F. discussed the process of 2017. It will begin at the end of September, with each activity reviewing their budget from last year and being realistic on their budget without “sand-bagging”. The process will continue over the next few months, including back and forth with the committees. The budget process needs to be completed by December. A key emphasis is realistic estimates for next year. This year’s budget is largely on target.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- a. October 18, 2016 – Sanctuary for the City Visioning Meeting with HCI Leadership Team
- b. November 15, 2016 – Regular Church Council Meeting and meeting with District Superintendent Dan Johnson

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.