

Hamline Church United Methodist
Church Council Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016

Attending: Pastor Mariah Furness Tollgaard, Ray Faust (chair), Bill Kimes, Mindy Greiling, Jim Schlaepfi, Jason Freund, Jeff Bouslog, Dave Purcell, Sharon Fields, Linda Krueger.

I. Opening Prayer and Check In

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer by Pastor Mariah and a check in question.

II. Consent Agenda

- A motion to accept the minutes of the November 15 Church Council Meeting and the December 4 Church Conference as submitted was approved by voice vote.

III. Discussion Agenda

- A. Lay employee health insurance: currently the Senior Pastor is the only church employee offered health insurance. Pastor Mariah raised the question of offering it to other employees who are close to full time. Staff Parish and Finance Committees support the idea. Mariah presented results of the research she has done on various options and the council discussed possibilities for eligibility and cost sharing. The consensus was to offer health insurance to employees with regular work schedules of at least 32 hours/week; single coverage rate only (employees could opt for family coverage but would pay 100% of the cost difference), with a waiting period for new employees of 90 days in an eligible position (current employees would be grandfathered in); church would pay 75% of premiums and employee 25% (plus 100% of difference between self only and family coverage). A motion from Sharon, seconded by Jeff, to draft a policy incorporating those parameters and circulate it for email approval before the January Church Council meeting passed by voice vote.
- B. Capital campaign firm approval: the HCI Capital Campaign team interviewed two firms and recommends hiring Horizons Stewardship Co., which has recent commendations from UMC congregations in our area. The firm would do a study in spring 2017 to advise the church on the feasibility of a capital campaign. If we decide to undertake a campaign, Horizons would provide advice and support. The total cost of \$37,550 (including \$7510 for the feasibility study) would be paid for from the proceeds of the campaign. A motion from Jeff, seconded by Sharon, to accept the contract with Horizons was discussed and approved by voice vote. A second motion was made by Ray F. and seconded by Sharon F. to pay for the feasibility study in 2 payments of \$3755 each from the Paulson Fund, which will be reimbursed from the proceeds of the capital campaign if we choose to go forward with it. This motion was approved by voice vote; Sharon will instruct the Finance staff to make the first payment.
- C. 2017 Stewardship and budget update: the latest data show that income is expected to exceed spending by \$4700-10,000 for next year. Final numbers are still coming in so that could change.

- D. Spire repair: Pieces of the metal roof spire have fallen off in recent months. The council received a recommendation to use up to \$15K in endowment funds to inspect and repair the spire next spring. Action was deferred until later since work cannot proceed until spring.
- E. Aesthetics projects update: a list of items for 2017 projects prepared by the maintenance team was offered for information.
- F. Green Congregation grant acceptance: the Minnesota Conference of the UMC awarded Hamline Church a grant of \$2500 for our green team initiative. A motion to accept the grant, made by Bill and seconded by Mindy, was approved by voice vote. The full text of the motion follows:

Hamline Church has been awarded \$2500 by the Minnesota Conference Investing in Congregations grant team. This money is in support of Hamline's proposal to further develop a green team and vision for Hamline Church during 2017. By accepting this funding, we are committing to the Minnesota Conference to:

- Implement this program to the best of our ability during 2017.
- Use this funding only for the purpose intended or return it to the Minnesota Conference.
- Report on our outcomes at year end in a timely manner.

Hamline Church accepts this funding from the Minnesota Conference and commits to using it accordingly as stated above.

G. 2017 Growth Grants Update: 12 grant applications were received with a projected total cost of \$24-28K. \$20,000 is available. The grant review team will consider the proposals and make recommendations for approval at the January council meeting.

IV. Upcoming events:

- Next council meeting: January 17, 7-9 pm
- Hamline All-Church Leadership Training: Saturday, February 11, 9 am-1 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:25