

NOVEMBER 22, 2011 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Summary of the Minutes
HAMLIN CHURCH, UNITED METHODIST

1. The following **amendments were made to the minutes of the October 25 Council meeting:**

a. The exterior signs will be changed to reflect the proper congregational name. b. If this pledge is made by December 31, 2011, it will be matched by a conference donor. The minutes were approved as amended.

2. **Pastor Seth gave the Pastoral Update on behalf of Pastor Peter Boehlke**, who was not present due to illness. Peter has a handout on **Vital Congregations**, a metric which the Minnesota Annual Conference is asking us to adopt. Vital Signs of the congregation, such as small groups, donations, etc are summarized regularly and the best practices of congregations are shared. Seth will put a PDF version of the handout on the website.

3. **Seth opened a discussion on important Communication Practice—How We Engage in Disagreement.** The basis of the framework portrayed on a handout on Conflict Resolution comes from **Jesus in Matthew 18**.

“If a fellow believer hurts you go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer God’s forgiving love.”

The two former congregations had different styles of leadership. The process presented can be still used to address current issues as well as those which arose in earlier stages of the merger. It was suggested that our Lay Leaders would be useful as mediators. The Council needs to serve as a model for the rest of the congregation. It was proposed that the Council adopt the Matthew 18 passage as a guideline.

5. **Mary Bakeman apprised the Council on the status of National Historic Register status for HCUM;** final approval should come in late February. A celebration, open to the public, was proposed for some date after Easter. Mary, Marguerite Pramann, and a consultant who assisted with the application process are to be commended.

6. **Todd Jones reported for the Finance committee** that we are in the black, but a significant fraction of the 2011 apportionments remain to be paid. The pledge drive is ending and the budgeting process for 2012 is underway.

7. **HUMC will be participating in Feed Our Starving Children on April 21, 2012.** It is hoped that several families will be involved.

8. **The Staff Parish Relations committee reported that Frank Evans is at home** and that in the Interim, Diane Milbrandt and Seth have been doing some of Frank’s duties. The committee proposed that **Seth’s hours be increased from 20 to 30 hr/week through the end of 2011**. The proposal was approved in the form of a motion. A second proposal is that Seth go to full time in January, 2012, finances permitting. It was mentioned that the Bilingual Child Care and Educational Center would like to lease one additional classroom.

9. **A bulletin insert lists all of the Advent Activities.** Contributions are also being sought for poinsettias, special music, and stained glass window preservation.

10; Julie Bayerl, **for the Membership/Outreach committee presented a handout on the Membership & Outreach process**, showing the steps of Marketing and Communications, Visitor Experience, Connections, Discovery, Member Orientation Process, Membership Commitment, and Integration.