

Church Council Meeting

February 19, 2013

In attendance: Pastor Robert Sorozan, Jill Wilson, Chris Wilson, Jeanette Baker, Carla Heister, Heidi Flower, John Rioux, Joyce Rioux, Matti Verzino, Christa Zaldivar, Carol Rivard, Susan Powers, Carolyn Koboski, Bill Katt, Diane Ashworth. Excused: Bill Thibodeau

Devotions led by Carol Rivard

January 2012 minutes approved as reported

Reports (in addition to written submissions):

1. **Faith in Action:** Bible Study on Hunger will be starting March 10th. Classes led by Pastor Bob Rhodes, Pastor Bob Sorozan, Joyce Rioux, and Jeanette Baker. These are “stand alone” classes, allowing for individual week participation. i.e. no 6 week commitment necessary.
2. **Finance:** We met and exceeded our overall pledge goal, but still have \$42,000 deficit. In March, We will be rolling out a follow up phone campaign, with all of us splitting the list and phoning people who have not supported PUMC for 2013 thus far, asking for their participation in supporting our ministries. Callers will be contacting 3-4 people. Financial data regarding income will be placed in the Sunday bulletin regularly.
3. **Trustees:** currently have ~\$800,000 in the financial portfolio, up from a low of \$400,000. The city has notified us that 90 feet of sidewalk is in need of repair. We will obtain quotes for that, and exploring how to handle the Uni-sidewalk currently in place. Prospect has served as a Warming Center this winter when the shelter is full or not open, and if it is colder than 10 degrees outside. Two CERT (community emergency response team) volunteers remain on site while we are open as a warming center. The roof has been leaking – perhaps around the vent related to the fire suppression system. Roofer will be contacted when weather cooperates. Carol Rivard will work on a Sanctuary and Sessions Hall floor plan so people will know how to return furniture, etc to their original place after an event.
4. **Education:**
 1. Work area is more than about Sunday School. After researching the work area, the connectional nature of our UMC was reinforced, and there should be a continuum of learning.
 2. Two youth and a leader are going to the District Youth Retreat in March.
5. **Stephen Ministries:** A confidential Christian ministry of caring will begin this spring. Recruitment of “ministers” will be first, followed by 50 hours of required training. Ministers will see those requesting care on a regular basis until their services are no longer requested. Men will minister to men, women to women. This is not a program for children.

Pastor Bob's report

1. Year end statistical forms from Conference are expected soon. Deadline is not known.
2. Invitation received from Terryville Congregational Church Organization for their 175th anniversary on 4/28/13 at 2pm. Carol Rivard will represent PUMC at the event.
3. Maundy Thursday svc 7pm, Modified Tenebrae svc
4. Good Friday svc 12pm in Chapel
5. Easter – Sunrise svc at Federal Hill, 10am Easter Spectacular (Invite all!) No 8:30am svc.
6. Attendance since September 2012 has been >100 except once. No average attendance number given.
7. District Resource Day has been rescheduled to 3/24 in Stratford.
8. Emergency Response Training 3/23 in Clinton

9. Mel Hatfield died Monday. Marilyn Erdmann funeral yesterday. 9 funerals since 9/2012 with 3 in one family. Bob looking for ministry ideas related to this family.
10. Discussion about low attendance at Ash Wednesday - ?need a brochure ?need to advertise, ? luncheon, ?require confirmation class attendance, ?Add class to the Lenten season

Organizational Chart – Joyce presented a PUMC organizational chart for discussion. Feedback was provided as to placement of certain groups into the various ministries/work areas. It is a work in progress.

Committee Workroom – Good progress cleaning up this room. Carol Rivard has been instrumental in its progress. The goal for completion remains 4/15/13

Bulletin Board – A photographic work area/committee display is in place with a few photos missing. This is a follow up from our small group survey. Please feel to post activities on the 3d section of the bulletin board as a way of advertising current church activities.

New/Missing members – Names shared of those who have joined, or have had significant life events.

The next Church Council meeting will be **April 30, 2013** (no March meeting)

Happily submitted,
Jill Wilson