

Church Council Meeting

May 15, 2012

In attendance: Pastor Bob, Sue Powers, Heidi Flower, Matti Verzino, Jill Wilson, Jeff Paulette, Carol Rivard, Jeanette Baker, Carolyn Kaboski, Terry Parker, Jackie Palance.

Sue Powers provided an opening devotion and prayer.

April Minutes were approved and accepted.

CT District Day – Narrative Budget- What part of your dollar goes where? Tries to get people to look at what we are doing and what your dollars are used for. Rev. George Englhardt has offered to conduct a training session on Narrative Budget. This is a possible tool for the Stewardship committee. The goal is not to set up a very long budget. The consensus is to have Stewardship and Trustees create a narrative budget with the help of Rev. George Englehardt. It was suggested that Rev. George be contacted soon so the whole process can start before the fall.

Nominations – a suggestion was made to ask each committee chair write up a brief job description of their work area. The committee chairs will be asked to have their work area descriptions to the Pastor by August 1st. The nominations committee will start meeting in August. The committee would like the church directory to have updated info and possibly pictures. Laura Taylor will be asked to take pictures of anyone that has not had any pictures taken of them.

Healing Prayer – The question is, do we continue with healing prayers once a month. This would be an extension of the Lenten prayer requests. One idea was to have an online prayer request form. The issue would be that information would be of the sensitive material. There would be a need for strict guidelines and someone to be an administrator to oversee these requests. The third Sunday of the month was stated as being the best Sunday for prayer. Also, if there were any individuals that would like prayer and laying of the hands. Jeanette Baker will put a blurb in the bulletin.

Long Range Worship Plan – Monthly themes outside of the built-in themes. Different themes would possibly be examples like family, Bible. One example was September to be Bible month because this is when the 2nd grade children receive their Bibles. It was suggested that the Worship committee possibly look into the monthly themes. Dedicate a day to center on the themes. Depends on Pastor's participation and all the effort that needs to be involved. Maybe to begin with a Sunday a month would be themed. First step would be to bring the idea to the Worship committee.

Small Groups – small groups are more pertaining to self-help groups. What kind of small groups would the congregation want or need? It's hard to get people to commit to times. There needs to be groups of interest. What would interest the larger part of the congregation? Survey with questions of interest? The Nurture committee to develop questions for the survey. The survey should be out by the end of June to hopefully start these small groups in the fall.

Fall Planning Retreat – guideposts for the future were reviewed. PUMC is not alone with attendance situations. Many churches are facing the same issues. The Council of Bishops are nudging churches to increase.

Goals – Sermon posted on the internet. Need equipment. Jeanette will borrow flip cam before actually buying equipment. Carol Rivard has offered to purchase and donate the equipment.

Create Add'l alternative services – not sure how to plan for additional services. It takes 15 – 20 hours to plan a service. Questions are, when to have the service, where to find the musicians. It was suggested that some attend a Freedom Fellowship service at PUMC on a Sunday afternoon to observe their service.

Annual Conference – One member that was to attend NYAC in June contacted Pastor Bob informing him that they will not be able to attend the conference. The reserve member was contacted but they could not have the time off from work in such a short notice. The name Madeline Verzino was brought forward to Nominations Committee. Pastor Sorozan made motion to accept Madeline to attend NYAC as lay member, Jackie Palance second the motion. Council approved. Madeline Verzino is going to NYAC in June. Rev. Richard Fowler will be covering while Pastor Sorozan is attending NYAC. The phone number of his office at Bristol Hospital is 860-585-3431 and his home number is 860-485-9287. His pager number will be in the office at PUMC.

Pastor Sorozan – Shut-ins. Are there other names that should be added to the list Pastor Bob has? Pastor periodically updates the list. Council added some names to the list.

Disciples Make New Disciples – Make our church known in the community. As a whole Methodists are shy about Evangelism. Are you uncomfortable being Evangelistic? Evangelism – what exactly is it? Is this a scary word to you? Evangelism – An invitation to come. Encourage the congregation to invite others.

Who Among us is new? The council made mention of people that were new attending church.

Pastor Sorozan closed with a prayer.

Next meeting is June 19th.

Heidi Flower will provide the devotional and prayer.