

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 12, 2011

In Attendance: Earl Pelletier, Mattie Verzino, Heidi Flower, Jackie Palance, Bill Katt, Stuart Brown, Jill Wilson, Chris Wilson, Jeanette Baker, Susan Powers, Dennis Winkleblack, Tim Krauss, Joyce Rioux, John Rioux, Terry Parker, Janice Moore.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Stuart Brown led the Opening Devotion with a reading from I Kings 3 – God gives a wise and discerning heart.

Nursery Care – Joyce Rioux – see report. Joyce asked that the ushers be reminded to unlock the Nursery every Sunday morning, so it is available as needed. Jill Wilson commented on the report of the Nursery Use Survey – how do we as a church want to be seen? Are we willing to exclude those young families that are looking for trained nursery staff for their infants/toddlers? Many newcomers are not comfortable leaving their child with someone they don't know – it would be a benefit to have the same face there all the time, though helpers can vary.

Joyce – have struggled with this issue – the nursery has been manned recently but many times no one has come. Dennis suggested a volunteer staff person could be available in the nursery until 10 minutes after the start of the service, then be allowed to leave nursery unmanned and open if no one has brought their child in.

Concern was raised re: volunteers – what is considered a “qualified” person? Not everyone who volunteers may be a good match for this.

Regarding having a licensed day-care provider - would this be just for Sunday mornings, or could it be expanded to the community? Where to look to find qualified personnel? Perhaps contact Tunxis Early Childhood Center? Jill suggested a ‘pilot program of a staffed position from Sept. to Dec. 2011 – 2 people, 1 paid, 1 volunteer – re-evaluate after that time. Roberts Fund can be approached for funding of this project. Motion was made and seconded to do the Pilot Program for 6 months. SPR will furnish a job description, Jeanette Baker will get information as to a pay scale to be offered – progress report will be given at the June Council meeting.

Financial Reports – Bill Katt – reports are difficult to compare without the YTD lines – Tim Krauss will put them back in the reports. Stewards Fund money will be moved to its appropriate account. End of March balance – assets are negative 2196 – not unexpected with the unusually long, cold winter, but all the winter bills have been paid, oil, snow removal, etc. having a cash ‘cushion’ at the beginning of the year was a big help.

John Rioux is issuing an appeal for a Financial Secretary. The current secretary, Naomi McConnell is on the traveling USA Hockey team and will be unavailable to continue as secretary. This post is approx. 1-2 hours weekly, posting contributions into the system, and can be done remotely through the new computer program that is set up. Also, perhaps asking the counters to post at the same time will help this.

Question regarding the Prayer Chain – who oversees this? Member Nurture? Outreach? It is time to publicize this again and perhaps get new people involved in it. Jill Wilson and Jackie Palance will meet to discuss this.

Trustees – Chris Wilson – we will be asking any one/group that uses the facility to please make sure the room they use is returned to its original state as we do not have a sexton on staff. Bill Katt – parsonage needs painting, carpeting, other repairs before the new pastor moves in. We will try to do as much as possible with volunteer “work days” - two are scheduled so far, April 23 and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Trustees is getting a quote to repair the outside railings that have been damaged recently, and for an alternative replacement for the large copper drain pipes that were stolen recently.

There is a “Children’s Packet” available to give to children of visitors on Sunday morning – a visitor’s Packet is also being put together and will be available soon.

Joyce – Staff Parish – Plans are being made to celebrate Dennis’ time with us, and his retirement, as well. June 5<sup>th</sup> is his last Sunday ‘in the pulpit’.

Rev. Bob Sorozan’s first Sunday will be July 10<sup>th</sup> – coverage for the Sundays in-between is being coordinated by Jan Moore.

Dennis gave a big thank you to the members of Staff/parish committee for all their time and effort.

Conn. District Info – there is a monthly publication that is UM Mission Newsletter that highlights the world-wide mission efforts of the UM Church and is a good resource. Sue Powers encourages us to sign up for it.

We are hosting the District Conference on May 15.

Jeanette Baker mentioned a Lenten Healing service that was offered at other churches and would like to have us host one next year. Consensus is yes, and was passed to Jan Moore as Worship chair to follow up.

Mum Festival – have received an email from Mum Festival chair regarding this year’s festival. Do we want to participate again? Cost for a space is \$25. Consensus is yes and has been passed to Jeanette Baker for Rethink Comm.

Tim Krauss – re: NCD (Natural Church Development) – we have not yet done the second survey for this program, and should do so before the new pastor comes in, to help set the stage for future planning. Need 30 people to do the survey – best way is on a Sunday morning right after 10 am service.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. Next meeting is May 17, 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Janice Moore  
Recording Secretary