

St. John's Council Meeting February 13, 2018

The meeting was opened by President Ken Gwyn at 6:00 p.m. The first order of business was election of officers. The following were elected by acclamation: Steve Miller, President; Ina Eckert, Vice-President; Jerry Guelker, Secretary. Steve Miller then presided over the meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved with two corrections: spelling of Gregg Wagner and Greg Felder.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Pape brought to our attention the trend in giving for the last few years is going down every month.

Larry Winkelmann reported that five CD's held at Burton State Bank were renewed for 12 months on January 20, 2018. The interest rate for the Sabbatical CD was increased by Burton State Bank even though it won't be renewed until June 30, 2018. The Memorial Fund has a current balance of \$19,213.85.

Investment Committee Report: Clyde Englebrecht reported the Committee elected to change their name to "Charity Reserve Committee" to better reflect their role in making distributions. The Charity Reserve Committee application to receive funds will be posted on the St. John's UCC website.

Cemetery Committee/Care Reports: Larry Pape reported all looks good.

Memorial Fund Report: Memorial Fund contributions are now processed in the Church office. Pastor Charles reported that two donations for \$75.00 had been received. Also, he will check with Larry Winkelmann to resolve a discrepancy with his report.

Mission Committee Report: None.

Maintenance Reports:

Parsonage: Pocket door repaired. Will need serious remodeling and updating before a new pastor is called.

Church and Family Life Center: Larry Wild has volunteered to help Bobby Garza. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon.

Christian Education Team Report: The Christmas program was a big success along with the other five events they were involved with throughout December. The curriculum for January-August was discussed. The Valentine breakfast on February 11 was a big hit. "Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus" is the theme for this year's VBS and is scheduled for the week of July 29-August 2. Upcoming events include plans for Easter and a Bike-A-Thon.

Liaison/Worship Committee Report: Lenten services have been set for Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. with a meal being served at 7:00 p.m. Family day has been scheduled for April 30. They approved the purchase of new NRSV Bibles for the pews.

Spiritual Time: Pastor Charles spoke about the new UCC theme entitled, "Three Great Loves," which encompass love of neighbor, love of children, and love of nature. He encouraged the Council members to think about our role as leaders of the church and the impression we impart on the congregation by stating: "You can't teach what you don't know. You can't lead where you don't go."

Old Business:

Chris Gandy/Lisa Hays Bank Account: Closed.

St. John's UCC Constitution and By-Laws: Tabled to the end of the year.

St. John's Signs: Replacement of 3 metal signs with UCC logo on Hwy. 290 - James Press and Larry Wild are working on this project.

Parsonage Windows/Screens: 19 screens need replacing at a cost of \$1,096.00. Charles will let us know how many of the 19 screens will be replaced now. Windows should be replaced at time of remodeling.

Sanctuary/FLC A/C Issues: It was determined that two units located in the back of the sanctuary are for air conditioning only. The unit for the big room upstairs in the FLC had some frayed wiring on the compressor outside of the building - repairs were made.

Lenten Meals: Volunteers are: Jerry Guelker, Ina Eckert, Blake Emmett, James Press and Pastor Risa Garza - Feb. 14; Dean Fuchs - Feb. 21; Barbara Saunders - Feb. 28; Larry Pape and Jason Hodde - Mar. 7; Clyde Engelbrecht and James Press - Mar. 14; Madeline Johnson - Mar. 21.

New Business:

Review Council Duties - Ushering/8 & 10: Ina Eckert will make up a new list to hand out at the next meeting.

Lenten Offering - Special Designation: It is a line item in the financial report and does not have a special designation.

Installation of Council/Others: Scheduled for February 25 at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Pew Bibles: Worship committee approved the purchase of 140 NRSV Bibles to be placed in the pew book holders. Council approved that money from the Greg Felder Memorial fund be used for this purchase. Current Good News Bibles will be donated to a church and offered to the congregation.

Church Sign - More Letters or New Sign: Order a set of letters.

Outdoor Church Furniture - Replace or Remove: Larry Pape will remove two swings and tables. Replacement was tabled for further discussion.

Directional Signs Around the Church and FLC: Signage is needed to direct people to the sanctuary and Family Life Center when they enter the building through the meditation garden. Hospitality Committee will look into it.

Recycle Containers: Designated containers are needed to encourage recycling of plastic bottles and aluminum cans. They will be placed in the office and kitchen.

Locking of Pastor's Office Door: Keys will be given to people who absolutely need access to the office.

On-Line Giving: Pastor Charles will look into the cost of having a phone application available as a more convenient means for giving to the Church.

Council Appreciation Dinner: Scheduled for February 26, 6:30 p.m., at Los Cabos in Brenham.

Clergy Reports:

Pastor Charles: The video surveillance system needs to be repaired/replaced. The pedal on the baby grand piano has been repaired; tuning will take place on April 6. A Save-the-Date for our 125th Anniversary (June 8-9, 2019) was posted on our Facebook page along with a campaign lasting 7 days with a maximum expenditure of \$20.00. A thank you letter was received from Eden Hill for our December donation. Pastor Charles donated \$500.00 from the Emergency Fund to a family in dire need of repairing their water well which left an Emergency Fund balance of \$16,312.54 as of January 31, 2018.

Pastor Risa is excited about the new Youth Group meetings and has posters for area churches and businesses; the kick-off meeting with parents is February 18, 2018. Also, her duties have expanded to include the children's sermon and regular visitations with residents in nursing and rehabilitation facilities. Her week spent at LTS for Intensives was amazing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jerry Guelker, Council Secretary