

## St. John's Council Meeting March 13, 2018

The meeting was opened by President Steve Miller at 6:05 p.m. and prayer by Pastor Charles. There were 10 members present.

**Minutes** from the previous meeting were read and approved with one correction: Gregg Wagner corrected to Matt Wagner.

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry Winkelmann reported no change in the Dietrich CD's. Only the interest earned on the \$5500 Curtis Dietrich Memorial CD can be transferred to the General Fund. Expenses for "Intensives" incurred by Risa Garza in Lexington, KY, were reimbursed from the Seminary Fund. Ten out of 17 Scholarships awarded last year have been requested. We have received 14 applications for this year's scholarship awards. Thrivent dropped to \$62,455.39.

Expense deficit was partially due to property insurance lump-sum annual payment and increase in utilities. Church Financial Report approved.

**Charity Reserve Committee:** Clyde Englebrecht reported that investments are increasing. The Grant application and guidelines to receive funds can be accessed through the St. John's UCC website. Applications will be accepted through May 31.

**Cemetery Committee/Care Reports:** Steve Miller reported for Larry Pape that all looks good. Grounds will be ready for Easter Sunrise service.

**Memorial Fund Report:** Nothing to report.

**Mission Committee Report:** Shirley Anderson reported on their current projects which include: providing some funding to Hope Rising; sponsoring the Rob Landes concert to support IJM; and donating money to individuals through KIVA. Their focus for future projects will be Washington County.

### **Maintenance Reports:**

**Parsonage:** Faucet handle needs replacing in middle bathroom. Two window screens were located and installed. The driveway will be bladed and new gravel will be laid if needed.

**Church and Family Life Center:** Repairs have been made to: bulbs have been replaced including staircase lights; a white table repaired; sensor at front entrance needs to be replaced; truck dolly tires were inflated; elevator light cover cleaned; deadbolt on breeze-way door repaired. Pending repairs: kitchen counter outlets keep tripping the GFI and need to be replaced. Bobby made a proposal for better handicap parking by laying concrete in front of the Church - tabled. Stand for fountain in meditation garden is rusting - needs sanding and paint.

**Christian Education Team Report:** Meeting was cancelled. They are preparing for Easter activities. Two Sunday school teachers are needed for grades 9 through 12 beginning in September.

**Liaison/Worship Committee Report:** A motion was approved for a Family Day budget not to exceed \$2500.00 to be offset by donations made toward the event. Family Day will be April 29 with one service at 9:00 a.m. and a fried chicken dinner at noon (free-will donation).

**Spiritual Time:** Pastor Charles read two passages of scripture: Acts 4:11-12 (talks about salvation - theologically conservative) and Matthew 25:31-40 (talks about reaching out to others - progressive). These passages lead us to start thinking about what kind of pastor we call to lead our church with two questions to consider: (1) What is the ministry of this church going forward and (2) Who best serves that vision? Everyone was asked to complete a questionnaire with three choices to answer the questions then a tally was taken of our answers.

### **Old Business:**

**St. John's UCC Constitution and By-Laws:** Reviewed two additions: (1) regarding associate membership (remove "previous" when talking about membership in a former church) and (2) regarding the Elders and their meetings (deleted because it is not a constitutional item). A revised copy will be e-mailed to members for review and voted on at the next Council meeting.

**St. John's Signs:** James Press has found the new United Church of Christ logo which will be used on the three highway signs. He is working on the dimensions for the new signs since the old logo is smaller. He will confirm pricing with Cokesbury once the dimensions are finalized.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The celebration will be June 8-9, 2019. Most of the celebration events will be on June 8. Save-the-date cards will be mailed to all the confirmands dating back to 1934 as well as current church members. One fund raiser idea would be the purchase of engraved memorial/honor bricks. They will consider any other ideas/suggestions for the fund raiser. Beginning January 2019 there will be a brief monthly presentation.

**Surveillance Cameras:** Pastor Charles found a wireless Amazon Cloud Cam Security Camera that works through the internet and has two-way audio capability. We need three cameras which will be located by the covered driveway door, by the door leading toward the office area, and one near the kitchen. A motion was passed to purchase a 3-pack for \$289.97 with free 24-hour surveillance capability.

**Hauling Off Outdoor Furniture:** Larry Pape has removed the tables and swings.

### **New Business:**

Bobby Garza suggested that when meetings are held at the church, the "entry" door should be locked after the last person arrives to prevent unwanted intruders from entry.

**Brazos Valley Food Bank:** A presentation was made by Reverend Karen Nelson. The Burton Food Pantry location needs to be changed from being housed in the Burton Volunteer Fire Department location #2 as a "Client Choice" Food Pantry to a Mobile Food Pantry drop site. Open times for delivery from Brazos Valley Food Bank would be on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Pick up of pre-boxed items by clients would be done on a drive-thru basis entering the Church parking lot from Trinity Street and exiting back to Trinity Street. Motion to use the Church parking lot was approved.

**Join Washington County Chamber:** Tabled to April 10 meeting.

**New Letters for Marquee:** Ordered and received.

**Locking Pastor's Door:** Keys were given to Pastor Charles, Pastor Risa, Sally Dunford and Larry Winkleman.

**On-Line Giving:** Pastor Charles recommended an app titled "Tithe.ly" to be launched on Palm Sunday for our members to use for giving to the Church. Motion made and passed to recommend the app to our congregation.

**Piano Tuning and Moving:** Swap the pianos from the parlor and Rm. 148. Tuning of three pianos is scheduled for the morning of April 6.

**Membership Audit Committee:** Tabled to April 10 meeting.

**Usher Duties:** Copies of revised duties were passed out for both 8:00 and 10:00 services. Copies will be posted in the "bell closet" for easy access.

**Giving Envelope Order for 2019:** After careful review, Pastor Charles and Sally Dunford reduced the past order from 190 to 120. No envelopes were ordered for children pending consultation with the CE Team.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jerry Guelker, Council Secretary