

St. John's Council Meeting August 14, 2018

The meeting was opened by President Steve Miller at 6:00 p.m. and prayer by Pastor Charles. There were 10 members present.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Reports accepted.

Charity Reserve Committee: The Committee met on August 9, 2018. It was determined that 10 out of the 12 applicants have been visited leaving 2 applicants with visits scheduled for completion before the end of September 2018. The July United Church Fund statement showed an increase in the Moderate Balanced Fund. The year-to-date appreciation stands at \$6,114.38. Mr. Ron Hall has joined the Committee.

Cemetery Committee/Care Reports: Roger's Tree Service has completed trimming the bushes at the cemetery for a cost of \$3,000.00.

Memorial Fund Report: The Fund has a current balance of \$22,101.49.

Maintenance Reports:

Parsonage: The roof and fiberglass panels have been replaced on the out-building/greenhouse.

Church and Family Life Center: The wood splinter on a pew in the sanctuary has been fixed. The garden fountain stand has been repaired. In the Family Life Center all of the electrical outlets on the island have been replaced. The garbage disposal should be installed on August 17-18, 2018. The dishwasher cannot be repaired - please think about replacing it or completely removing it and installing a cabinet in its place.

Christian Education Team Report: Vacation Bible School was a big success. A "Back to School Blessing" was held August 12 at both services. Rally Day will be held on August 26 with a CE Team luncheon following the service. Two Youth Sunday School Class teachers are needed. It was decided that our Youth Group would be enhanced by joining the BBAY Program on Wednesdays instead of meeting at our church. The Christmas Program will be "Wrapping All the Way" and directed by Linda Thaler.

Liaison/Worship Committee Report: A Worship Survey has been compiled and will be distributed to the congregation August 19 and 26. Homecoming/Family Day: There was some discussion about eliminating our Homecoming celebration this year and Family Day next year because of the 125th Anniversary celebration. No decision was reached.

Spiritual Time: Pastor Charles challenged us to "Reflect on Human Nature" based on Paul's letter in Romans 7:15, 17-19. Do our actions consistently reflect the people we want to be?

Pastor's Report: Attendance is down slightly. Pastor Charles purchased another camera to be installed in the kitchen. There are still issues with the freezer door being left open and thermostats being changed.

Associate Pastor's Report: Pastor Risa is on vacation for two weeks.

Old Business:

125th Anniversary Committee Report: They have received an estimate and diagram from Ryan Pape for the placement of the Memorial/Honor Bricks (345 bricks total).

Constitution Approval: Additional changes need to be made prior to final Council approval.

Membership Audit Committee - On-going: No current changes.

Holes in Stained Glass in Sanctuary - On-going: Foster Stained Glass in College Station has been contacted to give us an estimate on repairs and installation of window protectors.

Maintenance Person - James Scholttmann: James Scholttmann accepted the position to handle part-time maintenance for the church and parsonage. He is doing excellent work. On July 15, 2018, the Executive Committee approved (by email) the changes made to the signature card at Burton State Bank for the maintenance account.

Church Security - Update: It was suggested that security measures we have implemented be included in the Congregational Survey.

New Business:

Oil and Gas Lease Update: Ken Gwyn presented the finalized Oil and Gas Lease options with Geo Southern for the cemetery property, the parsonage property (one Lease) and property for the church building (second Lease). A motion was made by Clyde Engelbrecht and seconded by Dean Fuchs to accept both Leases. Motion passed.

Nevi Lee Lauter Request for Return of Funds: Steve Miller read a letter he received from Nevi Lee Lauter requesting St. John's United Church of Christ, Burton, TX, return her gift of \$29,000.00 made December 31, 1997. A motion was made by Larry Pape and seconded by Madeline Johnson to table further action on this matter until September's meeting and following discussion with Dr. Dietrich explaining why the Council cancelled any further action regarding the building of a fence at the cemetery. Motion passed.

Search Committee: Our profile has been completed and is currently available online at www.ucc.org under Ministerial Opportunities. The committee has received several profiles and is currently reviewing and evaluating them. We need to think about how to handle the remodeling of the parsonage prior to hiring a permanent pastor while Pastor Charles is still in residence. Also, contract renewal for Pastor Charles is needed for 2019.

Madeline Johnson suggested that the Council have a table at the Activities Fair scheduled for October 21, 2018, at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Pending Business before the Council:

- Job description for Building Manager and June Makowsky.
- Consider replacing 12 thermostats with Eco Bee thermostats.
- Free Legal Service presentation tabled until the Fall.
- Remodeling the Parsonage.
- Contract renewal for Pastor Charles.
- Table at the Activities Fair.
- Remove/replace the dishwasher.
- Homecoming/Family Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Guelker, Council Secretary