

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

The meeting was opened by President Steve Miller at 6:00 p.m. and prayer by Pastor Charles. There were 11 members present.

**Minutes** from the previous meeting were approved as amended with one correction (adding the phrase, "as Associate Pastor", regarding Pastor Risa's resignation).

**Treasurer's Reports:** The Handbell Choir has purchased Music Risers/Binders/Stands using some of the memorial funds donated in memory of Dora Kieke. On December 9 there will be a Handbell Choir presentation with dedication of those items in memory of Dora Kieke. Reports accepted.

**Charity Reserve Committee:** Outlined in the report was a history of the hard work and accomplishments made since the Committee first met in July 2017. As stipulated in the ground rules established at the onset of the Committee, a request was made to the Council to approve the distribution of \$40,000.00 to the following: \$8,000.00 each to Bridge Ministries of Burton, Hope Rising, Boys and Girls Club of Washington County; and \$4,000.00 each to Washington County Healthy Living Association (WCHLA), CASA for Kids of South Central Texas, Adam's Angels, Slumber Falls Camp. Motion was made by Larry Pape and seconded by James Press to approve the distribution as outlined. Motion passed. Letters will be mailed to all 12 applicants thanking them for completing the applications. They would like the distributions made to representatives of the charities at a regular 10:00 am church service sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. United Church Funds current balances as of November 8, 2018, are: \$997,330.72 (after the \$40,000.00 withdrawal) in the Moderate Balanced Fund and \$303,354.82 in the Fixed Income Fund for a total of \$1,300,685.55. A great big THANK YOU to Clyde Engelbrecht (Committee Chair) and Committee Members: Becky Crampton, Wanda Whitener, Bill Comiskey, Sam Hodde, Elizabeth Jurica, Joan Goebel, and Ron Hall for the fantastic job they have done.

**Cemetery Committee/Care Reports:** Everything is fine, no problems.

**Memorial Fund Report:** The Fund has a current balance of \$21,331.29.

**Maintenance Reports:**

**Parsonage:** James Schlottman installed a new kitchen faucet with built-in sprayer. There is an issue with limbs from the Oak tree in front hitting the roof in high winds.

**Church and Family Life Center:** Several maintenance issues have been resolved by James. Thanks to Dale Schwartz for tree trimming.

**Christian Education Team Report:** They are working on the Christmas program, "Wrapping All the Way," directed by Linda Thaler, and have set up a schedule for practices between now and Christmas Eve. Christy Moran purchased a new CD player for use in the Christian Ed department and also purchased \$50.00 gift cards for each class to purchase any needed supplies. Christy also purchased \$10.00 gift cards for Quarterly Perfect Attendance Awards. The Sunday School Christmas Party and Hayride is on hold at the present time.

**Liaison/Worship Committee Report:** The Committee has decided to meet every other month.

**Spiritual Time:** Pastor Charles read scripture from 1 Corinthians 15 and Romans 8 regarding death. He then challenged us with the question, "If you knew you were going to die one week from today, what would you do differently?" This exercise was prompted by an article he read in the Christian Century regarding an app for your cell phone entitled, "Don't Forget, You're Going to Die." The message appears randomly regardless of what you may be doing. The app was developed based on one of the Buddhist practices for defining happiness by contemplating death five times a day. It is believed that this practice can be a life-changing experience for how we live our daily lives.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Worship attendance is up for the 8:00 am service, however, is continuing on a downward trend for 10:00 am. Pastor Charles has decided to no longer combine the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services whenever possible.
- Totenfest will be held November 25. Our Advent season will start on December 2 with the Hanging of the Greens service that we did last year.
- Stripping and waxing of the FLC floors is scheduled for November 19-21.
- There are some areas outside the church that need power washing. Please let Pastor Charles know if you know someone we could hire to do this work for a reasonable price.
- After the turkey dinner preparations, June Makowsky slipped and fell near the dumpster and really scraped her face. James Schlottman installed a flood light in place of the last porch light which should aid in visibility. An accident report needs to be completed.
- A TV has been installed in the Narthex which runs a PowerPoint that Madeline Johnson created on behalf of the Hospitality Committee.
- A Bluetooth door bell (cost of \$11.99) will be installed by the outside door used for admittance to the office.
- This past month a total of \$300.00 was disbursed from the Pastor's Emergency Fund to three people in need of assistance. We received a periodic contribution of \$2,500.00 bringing the account total to \$12,040.00 as of October 31, 2018. A motion was made by Dean Fuchs and seconded by James Press to transfer \$2,000.00 to the General Fund. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report:** The congregation enjoyed Judith Finke's presentation on SJUCC veterans for World Wars I and II. Orders are coming in for the Memorial/Honor Bricks. A contract is needed by the Council from Papescares to cover the expense of laying the bricks.

**Holes in Stained Glass in Sanctuary - On-going:** Foster Stained Glass sent an estimate of \$6,100.00 to repair the damaged windows in the Sanctuary; and an estimate of \$7,740.00 to fabricate and install framed clear tempered glass on the six north side windows which would protect the windows from future damage. A motion was made by Blake Emmett and seconded by Dean Fuchs to repair the damaged windows. Expense will be paid from the Building Fund. Motion passed. If needed in the future, we will be getting other estimates for the protection needed for the windows. Prior to scheduling the repair work, the church calendar needs to be looked at to avoid potential conflicts.

**N. Lauter Request for Return of Funds (Columbarium):** On November 13 President Steve Miller met with Nevi Lauter to see if a Columbarium would fall within her concept of cemetery beautification. She is in favor of that project but needs to check with her brother, Raymond Dietrich.

**Search Committee:** They met on November 8 and have drafted an article for the newsletter detailing what the history has been, the work involved in searching for a new pastor, and why it is taking so long to fill that position. The information has been posted on Facebook. Letters are being sent to UCC churches and other denominations. A member of the Search Committee will give an update to the congregation monthly.

**Parsonage Remodel:** New windows have been installed at a cost of \$9,200.00 to be paid from the Building Fund. Larry Pape and Mike Sommerlatte are going to evaluate the kitchen and see what work needs to be done.

**Council Table @ Activities Fair:** Tabled until January 2019.

**New Business:**

**Reception for Risa - November 25:** Cake, coffee and punch will be served in the Family Life Center following each service.

**Fax Machine:** A motion was made by Blake Emmett and seconded by Larry Pape to purchase a dedicated fax machine at a cost of \$154.88. Motion passed.

**Burton High Year Book Ad:** A motion was made by Dean Fuchs and seconded by Ina Eckert to place a ¼-page ad in the year book at a cost of \$75.00. Motion passed.

**Security at 8:00 a.m. Service:** Dean Fuchs stays in the back of the church and Barbara Saunders monitors the Family Life Center. Because of the variations in arrival times between the two services, it is not feasible to lock all the doors. A security committee will be formed by Dean Fuchs with two members from each of the two services to evaluate what doors could be locked and other action we could take to ensure security at the 8:00 am service including the 10:00 am service on Break Bread Sundays.

**Minutes of Council Meetings:** Minutes of the Council meetings will be published on the church website following approval.

**Website Host Management Fee:** Tabled to December.

**Pastor Charles' Vacation:** Pastor Charles' fourth week of 2018 vacation will begin December 31, 2018. Beginning January 2019, he will accrue 1 week's vacation every quarter.

**2019 Proposed Budget:** Line item change "Basket" and "Envelopes" to one line item entitled "Contributions." Line item change "Lay Minister" to "Pulpit Supply." Line item change "Cemetery improvements" to "Cemetery improvements." Add a line item for Publicity. Motion was made by Jerry Guelker and seconded by Bill Comiskey to approve the Proposed Budget with changes as noted above. Motion passed with one opposition. A Congregational Meeting will be scheduled for December to present the 2019 Budget.

Barbara Saunders received an email from a concerned member of St. John's UCC regarding Pastor Risa Garza's resignation from St. John's as Associate Pastor and was asked by the sender to share it with the Council.

At the request of the Church Council, Pastor Risa came to the meeting to apprise us of her future intentions and plans. She is currently working at Blinn College in Bryan as an Administrative Assistant but is looking at other options that may be better for her. She still wants to be in ministry eventually and is pursuing her studies through Lexington Theological Seminary without financial assistance from St. John's. She plans to move out of the area and, therefore, will no longer be a member of our church. Pastor Risa is doing what she feels is best for her and her family.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

**Pending Business before the Council:**

- (1) Job description for Building Manager and June Makowsky.
- (2) Free Legal Service presentation tabled.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Guelker, Council Secretary