

UCC Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, November 21, 2017  
7-9:00pm  
Minutes

**Present:** Scott Richardson, Moderator, Debra Erhart, Vice Moderator, Matt Forster, Treasurer, Lynne Pederson, Clerk, Beth Kallestad, Phil Kasten, Pastor Todd Smith Lippert,  
**Absent:** Nancy Johnson-Maloney

Chair, Scott Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Members did a check-in with each other and Pastor Todd gave an opening prayer.

The Agenda was motioned for approval by Matt and Debra. Motion approved.

The Consent Agenda was motioned for approval by Matt and seconded by Beth. Included in the approval are: minutes from October, 2017, minutes from other governance committees, and the Minister's Report.

1. Updates

A. Stewardship and Budget

The Budget forecast shows that the budget can be funded as proposed. An additional \$14,000 has been pledged from people who have not pledged in the past. Pledges have increased on average by 6.8%. If the current budget plays out as expected reserves should not need to be tapped in 2018.

Todd reported he is encouraged by the good responses that he is receiving from the stewardship drive.

B. Nominations

Debra reported. All committee openings are filled except for one Stewardship and one Trustee nominee. It is hoped that all committees are filled by mid-December.

C. Governance Model Feedback

Scott reported. 25 people have attended the various meeting times. He is synthesizing the feedback received and will send it out to Council members prior to the December meeting. Scott shared that he was glad that the groups were offered as it provided an opportunity for people to share feelings and opinions.

2. Discussion

A. Stewardship – Big Picture

By the projection of the number of people that have pledged, it appears that the number of donors has increased over last year. The Stewardship campaign is a success but the outcome did not gain enough to meet the goal to hire a part-time youth minister. Is the stewardship structured right to meet the goals? Currently the budget can sustain the 2 clergy model, and evening service. Debra offered that there may not have been a clear ask for the need for a youth minister. Todd asks what need are we trying

to meet in the youth ministry? The program has difficulty sustaining youth groups that want to hang out together, active in the community, etc. Some kids don't have a history together and it is hard to get traction as a group, so we need to establish a history with one another for longer term. Need to determine a vision for the youth program and involve people that will have a passion for the program in order for the congregation to support it financially by hiring a youth minister. To what extent do we want to grow the combination to serve the existing programs and families? What is the next step for the church? Is the youth program number one? What other opportunities? Explore how other like churches are doing this? Financially? Sustainability? We also need to recognize who we are as a church. How big can we realistically be? The need for youth ministry may not preclude or equal the growth. This discussion and exploring these questions will be continued in future Council meetings.

B. Three Sundays for staff

On sabbatical Todd recognized how important it is to have a weekend off and to be with family. Todd is proposing that he and Abby have an additional three weekends off a year beyond vacation time. This would be 9 Sundays off total per year for each minister. Council responded that this is an employee issue that Todd can make the decision on. Members did support him in the proposal and suggested that he will need to think about how to communicate with the congregation about the change.

3. Information

A. Calendar for Budget and Annual Meeting

Trustees finalize the budget on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The review of budget with the congregation is on January 14<sup>th</sup> followed by the annual meeting on 21<sup>st</sup>. A joint meeting with Trustees and Council to review the budget is scheduled for January 4.

4. The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Phil, Debra at 8:46. Motion approved.

Next meeting: January 4 – joint Trustee and Council meeting

January 17 – Council Meeting @ 7:00