

UCC Church Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 19, 2017
7 to 9 p.m.

Minutes

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

1. Welcome, Check-in, Opening Prayer
Todd led us in prayer to open the meeting.
2. Agenda Approval (7:10 p.m.)
Matt, Beth moved to approve.
3. Consent Agenda (7:15 p.m.)
Minutes from October, 2017
Minutes from other governance committees, as available
Minister's Report
Matt, Debra moved to approve.
4. Updates (7:20 p.m.)
 - A. Stewardship and Budget
The budget is balanced budget for 2018. There may be a 1% surplus. The surplus may be used to create new line items to address future needs such as a staff position for Youth programming. Approval for the budget will be presented to Council by email prior to the finance meeting on Jan. 9. There will be no budget meeting on Jan. 4.
 - B. Nominations
Debra reported. One person is needed on stewardship committee and one on newly created gift planning committee.
 - C. Ministers' Sunday schedules
Scott asked if any further discussion was needed regarding the change in the ministers Sunday schedule. All present seemed to be in agreement to go forward. As Moderator, Scott will write a message in the Chronicle to the congregation regarding the change in the ministers Sunday schedule. Todd will set a schedule to determine which Sundays he and Abby will be taking off.
5. Discussion (7:45 p.m.)
 - A. Governance Model Feedback

Debra and Scott reported. About 25 people attended the sessions. Viewpoints were shared around positive and negative changes in the new model. There did not seem to be collective strong opinions about the change. Some individuals voiced opinions but it did

not seem that it was necessarily shared by others. Staff are thinking about how to be more transparent and find new paths for engagement with the congregation. One comment is that people aren't sure how to plug in to their ministry of choice or don't want to bother overburdened ministers. How do we provide channels for people to weigh in on? Thinking about how we can channel communication. Todd will include messages in the Chronicle to add another connection to members. Updates on the strategic priorities and goals could be added to the Moderator report to offer information on the work of the Council along with profiles of staff, and what members are doing and why. Scott will write a summary of the governance model feedback to the congregation through the chronicle.

B. Council Evaluation

What have been some key items that we have worked on the past year?

Review of the governance model; sanctuary protocol; growth; stewardship thinking; trustee policy; the neighborhood fund; keeping up the archives;

When were you the most excited, the most frustrated?

Receiving minister reports are helpful; high level conversations;
Frustrated about summer meetings when there is not a quorum;
What did we struggle with? Too much time was taken to hear about the archivist plan; process for Todd's review was unclear; good -structure that has been built into the Trustees – protocol and guides. Committees are structured better each focusing on goals pertaining to the committee.

What will we learn help us in the next year? Take a priority each month and have a high level (robust) conversation around it; set boundaries on how much time should be spent on topics; learn from Todd going on sabbatical to help prepare when Abby is gone this summer; layout a draft calendar for what needs to be addressed each month; orientate the new council members to past work; spend some time at each meeting about what members are hearing from the congregation.

6. Information (8:30 p.m.)

A. Calendar for Budget and Annual Meeting

Congregation Budget review on 14th

Regular Council meeting on 16th

Annual meeting is 21st

7. Adjourn

Phil/Nancy to adjourn.