

SUMC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Members present: Linda Denton, Doug Bishop, Charlie Rainwater, Judy Helsley, Martha Morgenstern, Marsha Brock, David Vancil, Carl David Bailey, Julia Rogers, Allen Rogers, Beth Lazenby, and Ruby Bronke.

Opening Devotional- In the absence of Rev. Wiggs Linda Denton Lead us in Prayer.

Approval of the Agenda: Doug Bishop made a motion to approve the agenda and Charlie Rainwater second that motion, the motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes:

Martha Morgenstern made a motion and Allen Rogers seconded the motion.to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2018 meeting with approval of the following changes: Item 4 changed to read “John Rainwater made a motion to get rid of parsonage phone and church landline. Jan Weinberg second; motion carried.”

Nominations and Leadership Report was changed to include: The Committee agreed to a proposal to reorganize the leadership in several areas as presented by Rev Wiggs.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

- a. No information has been provided to Pastor about an Intern.
- b. Refrigerators – are here, one of the old ones is in the parsonage garage and the other one is in storage in the white shed at parsonage.
- c. Camp cabin repair costs and fundraisers. No report. David Vancil as head trustee will be checking on this.
- d. Security cameras are here and installation has begun.
- e. Parsonage repairs- David Vancil will be checking on this as well.

- f. MasterCard for Weekend Warriors- no card yet. David Vancil is having difficulty obtaining one.
- g. Pastor/Church phone and internet
Phone to church and parsonage are in the process of being cancelled. Internet is being installed at the church instead of as an add-on to the parsonage WiFi. This was necessary to make the signal strong enough for the new security cameras.
- h. Second microphone –A new microphone has been priced at about \$700. No action.
- i. Addendum to 2019 Budget – Doug Bishop made a motion to approve the changes and to accept the budget and David Vancil second the motion, motion carried. Pension/Health was added \$7,359 which changed the Budget total to \$153,153

New Business:

Quarterly Reports:

Treasurer-David Vancil. Doug Bishop made a motion to accept this report, Charlie Rainwater second the motion, motion carried.

Finance Secretary- Charlie Rainwater reported 2018 was a relatively good year financially. Several graphs were presented to show patterns of giving and attendance over last year compared to years past. There has been a slight uptick in both. Doug Bishop made a motion to approve this report, David Vancil second the motion, motion carried.

Finance Committee- Doug Bishop

With this fundraiser as well as hopefully a couple of more before the year is over and building fund giving at the same rate as last year, it is a definite possibility that the building loan could be paid off by year's end. That would be great for the church's finances.

It should be noted that even when the building is paid for – it is my opinion that we need to continue our building fund giving – as we need to have funds on hand for future building repair needs – as well as sometime down the road a possible building replacement. This would only be prudent and is consistent with good

business practices. Doug Bishop made a motion to approve this report, David Vancil second the motion, motion carried.

Trustees – David Vancil

will look into repairs needed to the parsonage and cabin. Ruby has the cabin inspection report. Repairs might be extensive.

Security Committee -|

PPR- Andy Rainwater -No Report.

Nominations & Leadership- Rev. Wiggs was absent due to illness.

Nurturing- Beth Lanzeby No Report.

Outreach Ministries – Martha Morgenstern. The Outreach Committee had our first meeting of the year on January 21, 2019. Members in attendance were: Martha, Judy, Marsha, Stacey, Don and Jan with Pastor Bill who was not feeling well but dropped off some materials for us to look at and gave us some information about expectations of the committee and sharing ideas of things that we could work on. We are expected to work on two projects per quarter. One of those is to be a local project and one not in our local community. Our group decided that for our first quarter we would have a soup and sandwich fundraiser lunch to support the weekend warrior program, the food pantry, and the clothes closet. This luncheon will be at the church on February 10th. We will have a sign up sheet for that. Jan will be contacting the Women’s Center in Carbondale

and the Jackson-Perry County Child Advocacy group to check on their current needs. We plan to support one of these groups during the first quarter and the other during the next quarter. We discussed having a baby shower for the Women's Center with church wide donations and foster care bags possibly for the advocacy group. We discussed other fundraising ideas for the year. Since we are sort of restructuring since last year we will be meeting again soon to discuss more ideas for the rest of the year.

Worship & Witness Ministries – Rev. Wiggs ~~(See attachment)~~

Worship Team Meeting January 16, 2019

Heather Genesio, Allen Rogers, Marsha Brock, Cindy Rainwater, Linda Denton, Pastor Bill & Becky

Article "Bring Them In" was given to everyone by Pastor Bill, along with other pertinent information. Read through it for interesting notes and ideas.

It says evangelism works through worship, experiencing God and sharing Him with others. "Seeker Services" at Willow Creek church seem to be very odd, removing all symbols of Christianity in an effort to just draw people's attention. We don't think that's what should happen. Worship is not a theatrical show – it's about God. (Pastor Bill is NOT encouraging us to follow the Willow Creek model.)

Another suggestion is using the liturgical year to guide people to Christ.

What caught PB's attention is that everything we do is supposed to evangelize – bring people to Christ. How we do that is up to us. What priority do we place on evangelism in this local congregation?

➤ Cindy says it should be high – but honestly we're not sure.

➤ Linda says "evangelism" makes her think of a specific evangelistic service bringing new people

in. We haven't brought as many people in as we might be able to.

➤ There was discussion about previous pastors not making it easy to invite people. We need to

make it a priority now.

➤ How do we move our people from a culture of not necessarily bringing people to worship to

actively bringing people.

➤ Cindy says word of mouth from those who are here to others is key.

➤ PB asks what evangelism really is. Is it going door-to-door, is it inviting that person you always

see at the grocery store, is it telling family about what God is doing? What is it?

➤ It's easy to invite people when the minister is easy to listen to and engaging.

So how are we actually doing evangelism through worship? (He plans to ask the same question to each committee that meets in January.)

➤ Bible School does a wonderful job of evangelism. We need to get the parents more engaged. Do we have follow up? Maybe we need to get information about the families to actively send invitations to them for other things.

➤ We need to find a way to identify visitors and get contact information so we can follow up. Visitor packets are being worked on. The website is working, but we need a phone number on it! PB will mention it to Andy.

How is our worship service fulfilling our mission to make disciples?

➤ Scripture is always read during worship. Songs help us.

➤ GPS given out weekly is a big plus for the people to be able to get into scripture.

➤ Maybe we can send the GPS to Andy to put on the website weekly.

➤ Cindy mentioned a person she heard in Walmart talking about a door hanger left on their door that

totally turned them off. But other churches have had wonderful results from door hangers. We never know what will touch someone to get people in the door.

Calendar events to look toward in this quarter:

Valentine's Dinner by the Men's Group is Wednesday February 13 at Alongi's in their banquet room. (This is UMW night – we may switch to a different week, but it may just be cancelled.)

➤ Pancake Breakfast is March 9 – it is a fund raiser for the men's group. Scott can share info.

Ash Wednesday is March 6. – Tradition is to have a service with the ashes in the evening – 7:00.

First Sunday of Lent is March 10 – Pastor Bill will check into a Lenten coin offering. It used to be done

around here, but they haven't done it in a while.

oThere will be an Easter Egg Hunt put on by the youth for the children of the community. It is

sometimes a week before Easter, sometimes even earlier. It will be scheduled later.

March 29 is our turn to host the Journey to the Cross luncheon (Ministerial Alliance). They usually have soup and sandwiches and a devotion. May sing a song or two – keep to an hour.

Maundy Thursday – typically have a worship service with communion – sometimes did a reenactment of the Lord's Supper or a Seder meal. Pastor Bill mentioned the Love Feast. He will ask Greenwood if

they want to do it together.

Good Friday is April 19 – we are hosting the Community Worship Service.

Easter is April 21 – SONrise Service at 6am, followed by breakfast cooked by the men.

Pastor Bill also asked about demographics, worship surveys, ways to reach other folks. Last time we talked about possibly doing a dinner church. What information does the group have now?

Linda mentioned the ones who have left the church or stopped coming in recent years. She has talked to several people – mostly younger people with families.

Every one had a different reason for not attending. She asked about specific ideas that may bring them back to church. None of them responded with any positive answers. Pastor Bill said traditionally, it is difficult to get people “back” into a church they have left. There are various reasons for this, but we can’t focus too much on those who used to be here. We need to look into ways to reach others who have not been involved.

Pastor Bill said he has had a request for “a more contemporary song of some kind once in a while.” (This made us chuckle.) We don’t necessarily like what Ruby calls the 7-11 songs. Cindy says we like the songs that have a message – not just repetitive songs that go on and on. We all need songs that make an impact without standing and repeating the same thing for twenty minutes. There are newer worship songs that are great that we could do from time to time to keep worship more current and encourage people to learn new songs.

Cindy brought up the prayer list on the back of the bulletin. Could we purge and start over with the prayer list one month at a time? Pastor Bill also mentioned that maybe a general reason we’re praying for a specific person might be helpful. Maybe we need a prayer request card to put in the pews like we used to have. At the least, we need to let everyone know that once a month the list will be cleared. Pastor Bill and Becky will work on some kind of a form to put in the pews and encourage people to use it. We need to make sure we have a plan and follow through with how to get the information from the pew to the pulpit. What PB has often put on the slips is “for pastor’s eyes only” in addition to “print in bulletin” or “just pray today” options. Make sure to have the date and the name & phone number of the person making the request. On the list in the bulletin, make lines under to add in other prayer requests that are mentioned in worship.

One last question from Pastor Bill – how do you think the microphone is working out during worship?

The kids may need to move a little more quickly. We are checking into getting another microphone,

so we could have two going at the same time, so we can cut down on dead space.

Marsha mentioned homecoming as a reminder from our last meeting. PB asked when it generally happens. It is generally in September or October, whenever we

could get a singer to come. We do worship as usual just the beginning – offering and prayer and such. The group takes over the rest of worship and goes into Sunday School time, and then people go home and get their food and bring back for a meal together at noon. Plans need to be made early to get a group on the schedule. Pastor Bill’s standard question to churches is, “Is Homecoming still something of value to this congregation?” Marsha says “for those in the congregation over 30 it is.” Traditionally they would invite former pastors and friends who have moved away. So is it something we do want to do? Is it of value? General consensus is that tradition is important and people missed the homecoming last year, so let’s do it again and see how it goes. Last year it was taken for granted that it was already planned, but Pastor Bill didn’t know about it until it was too late to plan. He asked if we’ve ever combined Homecoming with a Revival. One time when it happened, it was split between here and the Baptist Church, and it didn’t necessarily work well. Round Robin Revivals have been popular in other towns, but it may not be something we want to do. Pastor Bill will do some checking into who may be able to bring ministry to us in that way. We should all think of musical groups or pastors who we might want.

Let’s meet again to discuss more. Generally we only have to meet quarterly, but we have a lot to plan. Maybe we could meet again in March? Linda said we need to meet before we have the Lenten Lunch. Marsha said the ladies usually coordinate it. What day is good for people? Mondays may work after choir. Tuesdays are bad. Wednesday maybe we could move the prayer meeting up by an hour so we can meet earlier for this group. Plan February 27 at 6:30. Prayer Group will meet at 5:00 that night.

Prayer Coordinator – Betty O’Keefe

Coordinator of Camping – Denise Smith. Early registration for camp is April 15th.

Lay Leader -Allen Rogers. NR

Bereavement – Cindy Rainwater & Judy Helsley. Elveria Kimbro was a member so the church sent \$50 to the Clothes Closet in her memory which was her desire since no meal was served to the family.

Education-Heather Genesisio. All classes have a teacher, they are doing special activities during the last 15 minutes each week and we look forward to increasing attendance. Beth reported the children after their Sunday School time they will alternate doing singing, bells, and crafts. The 1st Sunday they will practice the bells, 2nd Sunday they will play the bells in church and practice singing, 3rd Sunday they will do a craft. They are doing prayer pillows for 5 children on their prayer list they are rag pillows and will be making their own as well.

Technology- Andy Rainwater the Internet is being installed to accommodate cameras in the church then bumped from parsonage to church.

Parish Nurse -Lee Wilson No Report This Quarter.

Methodist Women-Marsha Brock is the current President. We are averaging 19 ladies who attend our monthly meetings with 18 pledging. We give to MS., the Food Pantry, Bible School (for meals for the children), Coats for Kids, the Clothes Closet, Tree of Life, Shop with a Cop, Toys for Tots, Autism, and helped a family in need. We purchase Father's Day gifts for the men in our congregation. We also met our District Pledges, Prayer & Self Denial, World Thank offering and Miles of Pennies Funds. Last month we announced we would be hosting the United Methodist Women's Spring Fling but we were notified that will now be the Spring of 2020. This Christmas we provided clothes and toys for 3 children from the DuQuoin School District as we do each year. We provided Holiday Bags for our shut-ins, Puge & Violet Bishop, Claudia Graul, Elveria Kimbro, Aileen Jackson, Dodie Holmes and for Pastor Bill's mother. We do a card ministry each month for members and non-members in need of prayers and cheering up. Some month we may send 30 or more cards. We also as a ministry provide funeral dinners for the friends and families of our church families. This year we provided meals for Nellie Vancil, Betty Bishop, and Bobby Heape. This is a ministry we totally provide from the United Methodist Women's Funds we may serve anywhere from 50-150 people. Donations and food are provided by the women, plus donations from some of the families for our Bereavement Fund. Since the Church also has money set aside for their own Bereavement Fund and don't use it maybe they could help us from time to time with buying some of the meat for these dinners. The dinners get very expensive but we feel it is an outreach for families to be together after the funeral to visit and member the good times with family and friends.

Methodist Men-Scott Loyd. Luncheon at church this Sunday, Pancake Breakfast is March 9th and hope to do apple butter this fall which the money goes to the Building Fund.

Youth- Julia Rogers. In November SMC Youth sent 13 Samaritan Purse boxes we prepaid shipping so we could see where boxes went and they went to Madagascar. They sold Kettle Korn again this year and sold 150 bags which is 50 more than the previous year. With the money made they went to Walmart and purchased Christmas for two children that mother wasn't able to buy for this year. The gifts were very much appreciated. We also gave the mother some small gifts. The Youth really enjoyed buying and wrapping gifts for the children. Also they had the Christmas Card mailing for the church which was a huge success. We are making preparations for the Easter Celebration possibly on April 6. Once again a huge thank you to the congregation for all their support. FIREUP is Feb. 22-24th at Troy. May God continue to bless all of you!! Allen, Julia and Melissa

Pastor Report-Rev Wiggs. The first six months of ministry at Sunfield has been fruitful, attendance is up and the overall attitude of the church is positive. The Wednesday night prayer meetings have a good spirit about them and our attendance is growing. The Christmas open house at the parsonage was well received and I believe helped to build relationships within the charge.

The Ministry Cabinet – had their first meeting on Saturday, January 19th. The Ministry Cabinet is made up of the Pastor (Chair), the Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Ministry Team Leaders, (Representative where the Pastor is the team leader), the chair of Church Council, and the chair or representative of the Pastor/Staff Relations Committee. The Ministry Cabinet will be charged with visioning and evaluating how the church can fulfill her mission, and using our sanctified imaginations to think creatively about ways to further fulfill the mission of the church.

The Ministry Cabinet will meet bi-monthly for Prayer, Bible Study, Discernment, Fellowship, and Planning to help the Ministry Teams work together. The planning and discernment process of the team will take the form of consensus. We spent a lot of our time talking about the new leadership plan, which includes our ministry teams, Nurture, Outreach, Worship/Witness, and Education. As was talked about in our last Church Council meeting, this was done to deal with the problem that

was created when the previous realignment/consolidation was put in to place for 2018. The “ministry” committees did not function during the year with the exception of the Education committee. The ministry teams are currently setting up a 1st quarter meetings in order to begin their work for this year. As of this report the Outreach ministry Team has met. We also spent a significant time talking about our need to reach some of our current non-attending family and friends who have been a part of this church in the past. We are working on a strategy to reach them, especially those who are the adult children of our present members. In addition we are looking at ways to find and reach new people. Andy has provided us with a map and list of people that live within a 1-mile, 3 mile and 5 mile radius of the church. We will go through this list to try and find out who among them are not currently active in any church and work on a strategy to reach them. We also talked about the need for more and better signage for the church and will need to look into it. We talked about the possibility of a new service to reach new people, not a change to our current service, but a whole new service at a different time. This will take some more study, prayer, and discussion. I have not made any advance on the need for an intern as we have to have a very specific plan for their work and we are just not there yet. It is my hope that we will be there by this fall.

DuQuoin Ministerial Alliance – I am an active part of the Du Quoin ministerial alliance and am enjoying working with a wonderful group of Christian servants. The ministerial alliance was in charge of the Salvation Army red kettle campaign during the Christmas season. A special thanks to those from our congregation who gave of their time in very cold weather to man the kettle. The ministerial alliance will be hosting their Lenten Journey to the Cross Luncheons again this year. We will be hosting on Friday, March 29th. We will also be hosting the Community Good Friday Service. It is also important to note that as part of the ministerial alliance I will be conducting worship services at our area nursing homes and serving as an on-call Chaplin at Marshall Browning hospital.

United Methodist Connectional Ministries- As being an Elder in our conference I am a member of the Conference Committee on Nominations. This committee

meets several times a year at our UM Conference Center. The first meeting of the year will be this Friday, January 25 from 10:00am-2:00om.

I will be attending Covenant Keepers 2019 at the Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon, January 28-29, 2019. Covenant Keepers is required by United Methodist Discipline, and is a meeting of the order of Elders, Deacons, and fellowship of local pastors.

In order to fully understand the impact of the 2019 special called General conference of the United Methodist church I will be attending the session as a guest/observer. The General conference will meet February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Mo.

Personal Opportunities for ministry- In November I had the opportunity to serve as an election judge, which gave me many opportunities to get to know people within the community, and even some ministry moments of prayer and council with members of the community.

I have been called to Federal Jury Duty for the month of February beginning on the 4th in Benton. I will be on call for the entire month, and considering I received my call to ministry many years ago while on Jury Duty, I see this as another ministry opportunity.

Next Council Meeting is April 3rd or 24th after Easter on a Wednesday at 7:15.

Motion to accept all committee reports-Doug Bishop made a motion to accept all committee reports, Charlie 2nd this motion, motion approved.

Motion was made by Charlie to Adjourn the meeting, Doug Bishop 2nd the motion, motion carried.

Prayer -Linda Denton closed in prayer.

Submitted by Secretary Marsha Brock.