

Church Council Minutes
Union Church, April 20, 2015

Present: Kevin Burke (CL&G), Shirley Carlberg (Trs), Eric Dodson (Admin), Abby Embry (Worship), Rebekah Easton-Hogg (Nurture & Care), Joan English (recorder), Carla Gilbert (Nom.), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Doug Hindman (Vice Mod.), Wyndee Holbrook (PRB), Laurinda Pool (Finance), Rachel Small Stokes (Assoc. Pastor), Bill Stolte (Properties)

Devotion: Abby reflected upon her seamstress work, and related it to the trap of continuing doing something incorrectly, even after you realize it's wrong. It's more work and effort to do that than admit you need help – but it's hard to ask. We prayed for the wisdom to recognize times we need help.

Minutes: March minutes were corrected and approved. Correction was a mix-up between “exempt” and “non-exempt” employees regarding payment of overtime.

Financial Reports

Shirley reported that March was (unusually for Union Church) an excellent month regarding income! She expressed thanks to all for their efforts in keeping expenses down. Question was raised if we know how much of that giving was made by new members/givers. Shirley does not receive that info, but there is an effort to track that underway. An error was discovered - that some money was attributed to Annual Income, which was intended for Capital Campaign in this calendar year. She and Patti Smithson (Fin. Sec.) have a plan to address that issue.

Action Item – Properties Board has requested \$100 to adjust the Memorial Garden plaque to seat it better on its base. That money is requested from Acct. #6998 (Unrestricted Memorial Funds), which can only be spent with Church Council approval. **Eric moved, Wyndee seconded, that Church Council approve this expenditure. Motion passed.**

Discussion of New Church-year Goals Finding ways to develop and “bring in” new members. Toward that end, both pastors reported on the first of several planned quarterly “second introduction” dinners/fellowship times for new members. This was held Sunday, 4/19, at Susie Ritchie’s home, over delicious food. Great bonding for new members, CL&G Board and pastors, primarily the new members amongst themselves. Success!

Communication – It was recommended that the Board Orientation be better advertised – boards “talk it up” at meetings, announce at Annual Meeting – how could we have done it better? Staff is attempting to address this – have begun using Google docs. This is much easier to use if you have a gmail address. Staff will help any who need it – it’s hoped that by posting minutes & other docs there, we can reduce the number of emails in Board members’ inboxes.

Board Reports

Admin: Continuing and making good progress on their goal of reviewing employees, revising job descriptions, looking at tasks, compensation, etc.

Worship: Action item: We have a wonderful problem – we need more hymnals! There’s currently a good deal on them and Worship Board would like to take advantage of it. It was agreed that Worship Board will offer the opportunity to the congregation to “sponsor” hymnals and honor a person with a dedication, agreed.

Motion: Worship Board be authorized to spend up to \$925 from acct. #6060, Lambert Fund, to purchase new hymnals. John seconded, motion passed.

Community Life & Growth: Kevin reported several important dates: Last WNL for the season: May 13; last coffee hour: May 17; first Lemonade on the porch May 31; burger bash June 20 (after VBS which is the 14-17th). Lenten lunches were a great undertaking – many words of praise for CL&G’s hard work. 4th Sunday New Member sessions have been well attended and valuable, these will populate the newly-established quarterly dinners.

Nominating: Carla attended – reminded all Boards that they should inform Nominating Board if they need new members, or if they have a member resign.

Nurture & Care: Rebekah reported. Their goals are to put everyone’s skills, resource books together to make one whole, so as not to recreate the wheel; and to connect hand-holders (not necessarily Board members) to hands that need holding – especially in the case of chronic, not acute, needs.

Finance: Laurinda reported. Goals are to update chart of accounts, review and revise Financial Policy, conduct internal audit for 2015 (this will be done in early '16).

Mission: John reported. They are greatly missing Michelle's guidance and presence. Bazaar is planned for August 29, help of the congregation is needed. Wyndee offered the suggestion that, rather than price items individually (which is tremendously time-consuming), we sell a bag for a set dollar amount and people can fill it with whatever they want. Pricier items can be sold separately. Struggling with the balance of filling local, national, international needs. Art Fair is planned for Amy 23 – this pilot project will host artists for \$30 a table and ask for a percentage of sales. Church may host refreshments, concession stand.

Speaking of dissemination of information – Consider deadline is April, 21, third Tuesday as always. Discussion of moving toward mostly electronic newsletter. Joan sought suggestions for announcing that we'll only offer paper newsletters by request – probably not spend the money on a postcard, but announce in newsletters and bulletins that unless we hear otherwise by this date, newsletter link will be sent to your email inbox. We can send about 90 by first-class mail for the same money we spend sending the whole bunch by bulk.

Pastors: Rachel reported that she had just met with Rep. Rita Smart and Bereans for Fairness. They discussed the organized opposition to the Fairness vote and how disheartening it was. After a spiritual Good Friday, BfF reports a feeling of resurrection. At the moment, they are anticipating the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality, which won't be known until June. They begin deliberation April 28.

We have received 11 new members in '15. Great news, but the real Good News is that lives are being changed and enriched. Every act of hospitality matters!

Faith Development is struggling with culture change – struggling with finding people to teach – and attend – Sunday School. But they report great energy and spiritual development around Children's Church. Maybe that's where our primary faith formation happens. Childrens Choir as well—what is sacred is the message, not the place it's taught. Abby told the group of another open & affirming church on Haiti Rd. – one that is more conservative in its theology.

Kent reported that he and Dave are working on several Admin issues. Conversations continue with Boone Tavern regarding wedding packages. Prayers sought for Betty Hibler and Gina Chamberlain as they support Michelle Tooley. Shirley asked if we can get reports of Womens Creative Sewing & Crafts. Yes, and as their finances are moved into the church budget we'll have that info as well. This was a year of Heather transitioning into the Director position, has gone well. She has them working on a Mission Statement, also involved with Art Fair. Lee Hubbard has been ill and Carla has been serving as chaplain-it's good for the participants to see a woman in leadership role. Photos of WCSC are visible as one waits on line for WNL dinner, and Lenten lunches.

Kent also sought the blessing of Church Council to address visibility as one pulls out of our driveway - and request they remove a parking spot or – most desirable – install a mirror on the lamp post right across from the church's driveway, since there have been 3 accidents recently as people pull out (Joan attests on April 21 to a near 4th).

Doug moved, Eric seconded, that Rev. Kent be empowered by Church Council to approach the City of Berea about this problem. Motion passed.

Discussion of parking, no motion, but suggestion that we encourage all to bike, carpool, walk to church – good for the environment, good for your health!

Next meeting May 18, Carla will offer the devotional. Rev. Kent dismisses with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan English