

St. Lucas United Church of Christ
Church Council
November 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Paul Simons, Council President.

Attendees: Barb Beck, Russ Cottle, Mary Ellen Cox, Shannon Givens, Julie Hubbell, Don Lang, Cynthia Rosfeld, Paul Simons, Steve Sobo, Carol Stelmach, Pat Stephens, Pastor Keith

Paul Simons led the Council in prayer.

Social Justice Committee Presentation

Stephen Hanpeter and Donovan Larson from the Social Justice Committee joined Council to talk about a mission opportunity with the Urban Farming Program with the International Institute. The program helps support new Americans and immigrants by giving them the opportunity to farm plots of lands throughout the St. Louis area, which they are used to and familiar with. There was conversation about using some of the land north of the retention pond. Water would need to be available. There was a question about whether there were any agreements in place with the developer of the housing development behind the church about use of the land. Building and Grounds has not been contacted as yet, as Social Justice wanted to bring the idea to the Council for discussion, but will be included as more information is available. The question arose as to whether open plots in the Victory Garden could be used. After much discussion, Donovan and Stephen will contact Chris Gumper and other members of the Victory Garden to see if this idea might be a possibility. They will also follow up regarding logistics and liability questions and report back to the Council with the information.

Paul reviewed the Consent Agenda previously sent to Council members and available in the Council packet and called for any questions. The Building & Grounds report was pulled for discussion.

Paul asked if there were any objections to adopting the Consent Agenda as amended. Hearing no objections, the items in the Consent Agenda, were adopted as amended.

Don Lang noted that the statement in the Building & Grounds minutes mentioned being asked to "stop spending," but noted that the request was to "be judicious" with spending. Funds from the general fund will not be "siphoned" to the capital campaign. The question arose as to whether the rebate from Ameren for the HVAC work has been received by St. Lucas and whether the rebate was directed to the Cool, Safe and Dry Campaign. Steve will check to see if the rebate has been received from Ameren and if so, where the funds have been deposited.

Senior Pastor's Report

Pastor Keith reported that the new St. Lucas UCC website has launched. Kudos for the great job to Megan and all the volunteers for their hard work in bringing the new website up and running! There was a question as to why no sound to the video and he noted that there was sound on some pages but not others.

Pastor Keith reported that during Advent, the pastors would be visiting shut-ins with communion. If Council members know of any members to be included, please let him or one of the Pastors know.

He reviewed the Advent schedule. The theme for Advent worship is God of Great Surprises. On December 24 (fourth Sunday in Advent), there will be four services: 10 am (a simplified, shorter service), Family Worship with communion at 3 pm and Candlelight Worship at 9 and 11 pm.

Old Business

2018 Budget

Paul reported that by congregational vote at the annual meeting, the 2018 Church budget would not be balanced. The vote taken approved adding \$8,100.00 to the utility budget.

Annual Planning Retreat

Paul reported that the Council Planning Retreat will be January 13, 2018 in the Fireside Room from 8 – 11:45 am. On the agenda will be Council 101, the Council Covenant, and a mini-primer on the Constitution and Bylaws. There will also be a communion walk-through and an offering “lesson.”

There will also be discussion of the Annual Congregational Annual Planning Retreat. Paul will share the date with new Council members.

Governance Update

Paul reported work continues on structuring the accountability and authority structure with the responsibilities and duties of staff, which may depend on what is decided on Church structure. He noted that eleven past Council presidents will begin review of the Constitution and Bylaws after the first of the year.

Staff Christmas Party

Pat reported that after discussion and consultation with some of the staff, there will not be a formal Christmas luncheon, but the monies for a luncheon will be added to the original Christmas gift of \$25 and a cash gift will be made to each employee, which will be shared at the Staff Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

Council Holiday Party

The Council Holiday Party for “old” and “new” Council members and their significant others, will be held at the home of Pat and Don Lang, on Saturday, January 6, 2018, following the Saturday night Worship service. Be expecting an email from Pat Lang about what you can bring!

“Old” Council members are asked to serve communion at the 9 am Worship Service on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

New Business

Marine Auxiliary Blood Drive

Paul reported that Carol Lyston had asked if the Marine Auxiliary Blood Drive, could be held at St. Lucas UCC, the last Saturday in September 2018, as their usual location is no longer available. This blood drive will be coordinated with Adam Rustage and the Red Cross Blood drives usually held at St. Lucas.

A motion was made by Cynthia Rosfeld to invite the Marine Auxiliary Blood Drive to St. Lucas UCC. The motion was seconded by Barb Beck and the motion passed unanimously.

Contemporary Worship Update

Pastor Keith shared a handout about the three worship services at St. Lucas UCC and asked Council for input about models presented. He noted that this discussion was to help in the planning and evaluating and no decisions would be made at tonight's Council meeting. The Council shared the history of the Contemporary Service and the Saturday evening service and the change of times on Sunday morning with Pastor Keith.

Topics discussed included: why people attend the particular service they do; what does each service have to offer those attending; what way do our services embody missional support; some noted that the Contemporary service is a more relaxed, casual atmosphere with a cohesiveness between the attendees as is noted at the Saturday night service; is there the opportunity to have our own St. Lucas band; how can we have an intergenerational church at all services; could there be a pathway to a more blended service to reach new people; a goal discussed was engaging teenagers/youth in worship and how/what can we program to include our youth; .

Pastor Keith reported there will be continued staff discussion around our worship services and he expects this to be on the Council agenda for the December meeting.

Church and Ministry Committee Description Review

Paul reviewed the Church and Ministry Committee responsibilities and description. The C&M Committee serves as the "personnel" committee of the Church. There was a question at the Annual Meeting about approval of a job description before hiring a new employee. Don noted that the employee was hired under the constraints of the current budget (and planning for the 2018 budget) and noted that Pastor Keith and Pam Russo were involved in the hiring. Paul reported that there is not a requirement for Council to approve any employee job descriptions in the current C&M description.

Annual Meeting

Paul reported that about 100 people attended the Annual Meeting on November 12, 2017. Pastor Keith reported that he and Pastor Eric have met with four of the people who voiced concerns at the meeting with good results from the dialogues. He noted that Pastor Eric will follow up with an article for the December *Visitor*.

Diversity Team

Cynthia Rosfeld reported that members of the Diversity Team will be asking for one-on-one conversations with Council members as they begin their work.

New 2018 Council Members

Mike Bohn
Julie Hubbell
Bill Lowry
Bill Linnenbringer
Cynthia Rosfeld

Returning Council Members

Barb Beck
Russ Cottle
Mary Ellen Cox
Shannon Givens
Paul Simons
Steve Sobo

Paul will invite the new members of the Council to the Tuesday, December 12, 2017 Council meeting (6 pm). There will be an election for 2018 Council Officers.

Honoring Shirley Beyersdorfer and Ann Goddard

Paul discussed the opportunity to honor Shirley Beyersdorfer and Ann Goddard for their recent bequests to St. Lucas UCC, by purchasing engraved bricks in the Tribute Garden.

A motion was made by Carol Stelmach to purchase bricks in honor of Shirley Beyersdorfer and Ann Goddard in the Tribute Garden. The motion was seconded by Russ Cottle and the motion passed unanimously.

Goddard Bequest Follow-Up

Don reported that the Goddard bequest will be reported as part of the general fund assets and any expenditures will be done under the guidelines of the budget. As per the trust agreement, the monies will be used for general operating expense.

Other New Business

A question was raised about “why the attendance figures were not being reported in the bulletin?” It is noted that ushers doing the counting don’t always use the same guidelines for counting and the numbers are inconsistent. The Stewardship Committee will review the “Stewardship” Corner in the weekly bulletin for possible inclusion of attendance numbers.

A motion was made by Shannon Givens to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Cox and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Stephens, Secretary

Dates to Remember

December 3	9:00 a.m. – Worship Service with Communion
December 9	3:30 p.m. – Living Nativity
December 12	6:00 p.m. – Council
December 17	2:00 p.m. – Christmas Cantata
December 24	3:00 p.m. – Family-Friendly Worship with Communion
December 24	9:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candle Light Services
December 25	10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Service