

St. Lucas United Church of Christ  
Church Council  
August 22, 2017

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

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

Pastor Keith led the Council in prayer.

Paul reviewed the consent agenda previously sent to Council members and available in the Council packet on the website and called for any questions. He noted the AV coordinator job description would be reviewed during new business. He asked if there were any objections to adopting the Consent Agenda, as amended. Hearing no objections, the items in the Consent Agenda, as amended, were adopted.

### **Pastor Keith's Report**

Pastor Keith reported that Amy Farfan, our new AV Coordinator would begin work at St. Lucas, the week of August 28. Kelly Archer, Eden Intern, will join the staff the week after Labor Day, for the fall and spring semesters. Keith, Eric and Kelly are working on a learning contract and discussing experiences she would like to have during her time at St. Lucas UCC. They will also work on a calendar of ministry experiences to give her a sampling of how the wheels of the church turn.

Pastor Eric will be installed and commissioned on Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 3 pm. All are invited. Pat noted she will be looking for volunteers to help with the reception following the ceremony.

Pastor Keith reported that staff is continuing on the theme for Advent, Lent and Easter.

Pastor Keith will be on vacation, August 23 – 30, 2017.

### **Membership & Evangelism**

Cynthia reported that M&E hosted a BBQ for 30 +- group. M&E asked the group how St. Lucas UCC can attract young families and young adults. Comments included liking the varied times of worship to meet the schedules of young families; more conversation about a more "casual" dress; all-church events are popular and provide fellowship for all; the group appreciated the work of the Diversity Task Force to become open and affirming; offer events other than Sundays, perhaps a blog for conversation about the sermon or scripture.

Cynthia also reported that the Diversity Team continues to develop plans for a process to begin church-wide conversation about becoming welcoming to all at St. Lucas. This will be a slow, thoughtful process with congregational input and discussion.

Cynthia has Still Speaking "commas" available.

## **Old Business**

### **Nominating Committee**

Paul reported Bill Linnenbringer, Joan Gildehaus and Mary Ellen Cox will be serving on the Nominating Committee to fill open slots for 2018 for Church Council, PET, Cemetery Board, and Lay Delegates. Open slots for BCE are not being filled as the Board will be disbanded as part of the governance work. Council members are asked to think about possible candidates for the open slots.

### **Cabinet Meeting**

Paul discussed conversation at the Cabinet Meeting on the Grant's Farm event. There was a significant drop (over 250) in attendance in 2017. He noted lots of conversation about whether to continue the event, cancel, or perhaps hold it every other year. The Cabinet talked about substituting another all-church event with Grant's Farm every other year. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to not hold a Grant's Farm event in 2018 but look to the first weekend of June, 2019, for the next one. Pat will contact Grant's Farm.

### **Ice Cream Social**

Paul reported that the cost of the Ted Drewes has not been covered for this year's Celebration Sunday/ Ice Cream Social. Three members of the Council have volunteered to cover the cost this year. Thank you!

## **New Business**

### **November Prayer**

Paul explained that a volunteer was needed for the November opening prayer, since this had previously been scheduled to be given by Cindy Weber. Since Russ Cottle did not give the opening prayer tonight, as scheduled, he will give the opening prayer in November.

### **Cemetery Board**

Russ presented information from the Cemetery Board for an increase in plot prices by \$100 (lots are sold in quantities of 2 and 3). There has not been a price increase since 2014 and a comparison of local cemeteries of current pricing, showed St. Lucas UCC Cemetery and perpetual care are underpriced in comparison. Russ noted that an employee has been hired by the Cemetery Board to measure and dig graves instead of using volunteer services. He noted service fees were still under discussion. Paul noted that service fees were also required to be approved by Council as mentioned in the Constitution and By-Laws. Council requested Russ contact the Cemetery Board and ask them for a proposal to approve regarding a possible price increase and any changes to the fee/services structure. The proposal should also include an evaluation of the perpetual care fund.

### **AV Coordinator**

Paul presented the AV Coordinator position job description for review and approval by the Council. The job description does not require the AV Coordinator to man the AV board at every service but the

position will coordinate the volunteers and work with the AV Committee to begin with a thorough evaluation of our current AV equipment and needs.

John questioned and expressed concern why the job description was not approved by the Council before the position was filled which he felt was the usual process before a position was offered. Paul noted that changes to the Constitution and By-Laws would hopefully be formalized for the May Semi-Annual meeting to cover these types of issues.

Paul reported a candidate for the AV Coordinator position was identified and all involved felt it important to move forward with the hiring, before the minor changes to the job description were approved by Council, noting that Church & Ministry had approved the job description as part of their process.

Don Lang reminded Council members of budget issues regarding new hires and Paul noted that Church & Ministry is looking at some opportunities for cost savings with some positions which C&M will share with Stewardship as decisions are made.

A motion was made by Steve Sobo to approve the Audio Visual Coordinator job description as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Cox and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Beyersdorfer Endowment**

Don presented the guidelines for the \$200,000 Beyersdorfer Endowment. The Endowment will be used for children's programming and will be administered by the same members as on the General Endowment Fund, using the same investment practices with similar restrictions, in that a percentage of the income will be distributed to children's programming. Don reported that additional funds can be added to the Endowment and the corpus can never go below \$200,000. He noted that \$5,000 will be contributed to children's programming in 2018.

A motion was made by Mary Ellen Cox to approve the formation of the Beyersdorfer Endowment as presented. The motion was seconded by Barb Beck and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Annual Planning Event**

Paul discussed the annual planning event with Council, Clergy and other congregational representation and a process to consider, with goals: open questions about the congregation's future; annual vision of ministry (and goals for the coming year); using the Governance Action Team suggestion to use the five core values as a starting point (Evangelism, Worship, Fellowship, Education (Formation), and Mission).

Paul will email information about the annual planning event so Council planning can continue.

### **Crib Room Availability**

Steve questioned whether St. Lucas needed a stand-alone crib room rather than a shared space with the Preschool. Council will follow up to try for a resolution for this ongoing issue.

## Calendar

September 3	9 am - Communion
September 10	10 am - Celebration Sunday Worship (all three services combined) and Ice Cream Social
September 17	3 pm – Moeller Commissioning and Installation and Reception
September 24	5 pm – Community Dinner
September 26	6 pm – Council Meeting

A motion was made by Barb Beck to adjourn the August 22, 2017 Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Shannon Givens and the motioned passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 7:35 pm.