

## St. Lucas UCC Church Council

October 24, 2017

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

Attendance: Barb Beck, Russ Cottle, Mary Ellen Cox, Julie Hubbell, Don Lang, Steve Sobo, Paul Simons, Carol Stelmach, Pat Stephens

Absence: Shannon Givens, Cynthia Rosfeld

Russ Cottle shared the opening prayer.

### Guests

Bill Biedenstein and Adam Rustage from the Diversity Team shared a survey for the congregation to get feedback about the Open and Affirming process. They noted that this is a survey for fact gathering and not a vote on becoming Open and Affirming. The survey would be collected by the end of December and the results shared. They talked about avenues for distribution of the survey and noted that they would be meeting with all groups in the Church and the survey would be available electronically on Survey Monkey. They will also have tables in the Social Hall November 3, 10, and 17, for discussion and conversation.

Some on the Council mentioned, "I thought we were opening and affirming," which led to Council discussion about the confusion that exists about open and affirming at St. Lucas. It was noted that even though the UCC denomination is opening and affirming, each church within the denomination is autonomous.

Steve discussed the importance of this conversation at St. Lucas and questioned whether the scope could be broadened as suggested in the strategic plan. What defines diversity – what defines welcoming? By focusing on just O & A, is this just adding a point of tension rather than conversation? It is important that all are respectful of the varied opinions at St. Lucas.

Council felt the first paragraph of the survey talked about welcoming all to St. Lucas, not just to one particular group. "Part of our vision at St. Lucas is "we extend Christ's invitation to all, welcoming everyone to find Christian support, love and fellowship within our church." Consensus of the Council discussion was to broaden the scope of the survey to "welcoming all" and not focus just on the open and affirming process. Adam and Bill will take the information back to the Diversity Team.

Paul reviewed the Consent Agenda previously sent to Council members and available in the Council packet and called for any questions. He added that the 2018 Budget would be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed under Old Business.

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.

## **Old Business**

### **2018 Budget**

Don led a detailed review of the proposed 2018 St. Lucas UCC budget to be presented to the Congregation and the process and rationales the Stewardship Committee used in putting the budget together. He noted that he had gone back to Committees/Boards for reconsideration as the budget came together for cuts in their budgets. He noted that Building & Grounds was asked to adjust their budget for the budgeted amount.

Don noted the Benevolences budget was unchanged from 2017, although some of the line items were reclassified. The Oikos peanut butter project has been added to the benevolence challenge portion of the budget.

Don reported that Paul Litzinger had requested that the Joint Neighborhood Ministries budget be kept in the 2018 budget at the 2017 level of \$2,100.00, as this organization will be commencing operations again shortly. Consensus of Council discussion was to support the request from Paul Litzinger.

A motion was made by Don Lang to accept the St. Lucas UCC 2018 budget as presented with the addition of \$2,100.00 to the budget for Joint Neighborhood Ministries. The motion was seconded by Barb Beck and the motion passed unanimously.

Don reported that Staff, Committees and Boards have been asked to be frugal and respectful of the Church's financial position. The Council had a lengthy discussion about ways to increase giving and how to reach out to the Church community about giving.

Don will continue as Chair of the Capital Campaign.

### **Nominating Committee**

Mary Ellen presented the slate of 2018 candidates for Cemetery Board, Perpetual Endowment Trust, Lay Delegates and Council, to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017

#### **Cemetery Board**

Kirk Dalgaard  
Dan Wenk

#### **Perpetual Endowment Trust**

Don Lang

#### **Lay Delegates**

Bill Biedenstein  
Joy Dressel

## Church Council

Mike Bohn

Julie Hubbell

Bill Linnenbringer

Bill Lowry

Cynthia Rosfeld (one-year term)

## Advent Schedule

Paul reported that the 3 pm Christmas service has been added back in to the Christmas Eve schedule. There will be no worship on Saturday, December 23. Services on Christmas Eve, December 24 – 10 am, 3 pm Family-Friendly worship (no communion), 9 pm and 11 pm Candlelight worship (no Communion). Christmas Day worship at 10:00 am. There will be 5 pm worship on December 30 and 10 am worship on December 31.

## New Business

### October 28 & 29 Offering

Carol and Don volunteered for Sunday morning offering. Thank you! Council members are asked to sign up for three services for offering duty.

### Staff Christmas Party

The St. Lucas UCC Staff Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Church. Pat will send out an email for volunteers.

The Council will meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:00 pm. New Council members will be invited to join the meeting.

### Council Holiday Party

The Council Holiday Party will be held on Saturday evening, January 6, 2018 at the Simons, following the 5 pm Saturday night worship. Subsequent to the meeting, Don and Pat Lang offered to host the Council Holiday Party in place of the Simons. Thanks to Don and Pat! There will be an installation/commissioning of new Council members and other elected positions at all three services that weekend. Members of the old Council will be asked to serve communion on Sunday at 9 am.

### Buildings and Grounds Liaison

Steve Sobo will be the Council Liaison to Building and Grounds.

### Contemporary Worship Service

Steve questioned where we are in changing/transforming the Contemporary Worship Service? Paul will follow up with Pastor Keith and this topic will be discussed at the November Council meeting.

## **Miscellaneous Discussion**

The Council discussed ways to engage new faces to serve on committees.

40 +/- will be meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2017 from 5 – 7 pm at Pastor Keith and Wanda's home for a Membership & Evangelism led discussion, as was facilitated with the Young Adult group.

A motion was made by Barb Beck to adjourn the Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Lang and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

### **Dates to Remember:**

October 29	4 pm – Trunk or Treat
November 5	9 am – Worship Service with Communion
November 9	7 pm – Cabinet Meeting
November 12	11 am – Annual Meeting
November 22	7 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship
November 28	6 pm – Council Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Stephens, Secretary