

St. Lucas United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting
November 11, 2018

Church Council President Steve Sobo called the Annual Meeting of St. Lucas United Church of Christ to order at 10:59am. Paul Simmons, Church Council member confirmed a quorum was present.

Pastor Keith led us in the opening prayer.

Bells of Peace led: An Armistice Day - World War I remembrance: Ringing of the Church Bells

Steve presented the members of the St. Lucas UCC staff and the Church Council and thanked all for their support and caring for St. Lucas.

Steve noted that Myles Myer will serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes Semi Annual Meeting:

A motion was made by Bill Linnenbringer to approve the May 6, 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Barb Smith and the motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Keith shared the Senior Pastor Report: He presented an update on staff and welcomed Seth Carruthers as new Half Time Music Director and Kelly Archer as the candidate for the Pastor of Congregational Life upon the completion of her MDiv at Eden plus her authorization for ministry in the UCC through the St. Louis Association of the Missouri-South Conference. He encouraged the Church to come together focusing on the now and the tomorrow using metaphor of Lewis and Clark and new exploration and discovery.

Celebrating St. Lucas:

Steve shared his goals as Church Council President primarily to learn "who is St. Lucas", knew there was passion and found that as a whole the congregation wants to make it the best it can be. He reinforced the need to express the good, and the positives of what is going on behind the scenes.

Steve celebrated some of the accomplishments of some of our Committees of St. Lucas (UCC)

MOCL Search Committee and the formal call for Kelly in May upon the completion of her MDiv at Eden plus her authorization for ministry in the UCC through the St. Louis Association of the Missouri-South Conference. If all goes well she will be presented in May or June 2019

Adult Education: has had multiple guest speakers, grown in volunteers teaching classes various classes on different topics covering multiple interests.

Audio Visual: Update on safety alerts, recording, fixed back right speaker, improving sound system social hall, improving overall audio/visual experience in service.

Caring Ministry: Continues with weekly prayers, prayer shawls, birthday flowers, etc

Church & Ministry: Continued support of the search committees, continue with working on and the ongoing development of staff, was able to reduced health care cost by transitioned to lower health plan for employees.

Environmental: Increase in recycle, compost of food/items, use of reusable bags.

Faith Formation: Children's ministry program, another successful VBS, Youth ministry programming, another successful Mission trip, continued adult education, bible class, friendship village bible study program, etc.

The Heritage Committee: working on the celebration for the 140 anniversary coming up in 2020, photos and display of past, displays.

Loaves & Fishes: Continues with backpack program, snacks, college kickstart program, community meals, free pantry, little library, Bridge Bread program, frozen meals for community, yellow bag program.

Membership & Evangelism: continue to work on adding new members with recruitment and activities, use of social media to promote the Church, has organized the usher teams to welcome people, and developed a new member orientation program.

Mission & Outreach: The giving tree among many other accomplishments.

Social Justice Committee- Use of the parsonage as a mission moment in helping a family within the school district.

Additional Thanks and acknowledgement of The Stewardship Committee, 40+-, and other Missions, groups and committees that continue to support benevolences, activities and community events.

St. Lucas UCC Financial Report:

Bill Linnenbringer, Financial Secretary, reviewed the financial report. He reported the Third Quarter 2018 Financial status: deficit, explained that deficits have been covered by Ann Goddard Funds, and with the budgeted use of funds in 2019 those funds will be gone. He reported that we have had to use the one time gift to fund the operation of the church over the past three years.

Bill reported that official Membership via roster known a little over 900 people, 800+ giving units, but actual giving units are less than 300 units. Recommended creating an "inactive" member list based on attendance, giving financially and of time. He reported that we need to raise more

revenue or cut expenses to bring general fund to appropriate amount, recommended to start working on now rather than waiting until we are too low to recover. Bill called for any questions about the financial reports.

A motion was made to approve the 2019 budget as presented by Cynthia Rosfeld. The motion was seconded by Barb Bilgram, no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Cemetery Board:

Al Lichenstein gave special Thank You to Jerry Wieshan. Al provided information on financial reports, revenues vs. expenses. Reported that a few trees had to be removed, more may have to be removed in future.

Motion made to approve Cemetery Board budget made by Barb Smith. The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Cox, no discussion, the motion was passed unanimously

Preschool Board:

Karen Papin announced that the Preschool is in it's 47th year. She reported that they are seeing high enrollment, with 89% returned from last year. Many of the families are involved with Church, acknowledged that the preschool is known in the area for the quality of education and preparation for Kindergarten it provides to all of its students.

Capital Campaign Status Update:

Don Lang presented reporting that Phase 1, 2, 3 100% funded, Phase 4 is 61% funded.

Karl Scheidt- Reported on project for back parking lot. He reported that there is a new estimate for repair. The lower portion of parking lot has deteriorated, something going on below the surface, found unsuitable soils. In order be corrected the parking lot needs to be dug up, one foot of material added and packed then can be repaved over, budget estimate \$250,000, was \$145,000, resulting in increase of \$105,000. Will need to ask for increase of capital campaign due to estimate change.

Discussion:

Paul Simons: clarified started paying off the Rott loan, balance is down that frees up \$14,000.

Dan Coughlin: Offered Thanks to Don and Karl, incredible about what we have raised so far for the capital campaign, believes we can do this and raise the funds to get all the projects completed.

Paul Litzinger: Asked do we still need the same size parking, lot, could we downsize to meet needs? Karl responded that we do usually spill over to the back parking lot on a typical Sunday and clarified that the back parking lot is the lot portion closest to ball fields, during the week there is a lot of traffic on the back parking lot Lindbergh renting fields

Jill Meyer: Asked Is this a forever fix? Or will this be ongoing problem? Karl responded that this will be permanent fix, the goal is to stabilize soil conditions so pavement can do what needs to do without cracking or sinking, ect. It will however have a normal life span as far as a paved parking lot goes.

Debbie Driver: When is the roof phase or the campaign scheduled? She reported that last week two classrooms leaked in preschool. Karl clarified that fixing the roof is in the last phase of the capital campaign but is specific to the Sanctuary roof. The preschool roof is part of regular maintenance and roofer has been contacted.

Skip Solomon- Stated that he is on the Building Grounds Committee, asked would you want to change the order we complete projects, or would we take money that was pledged for the educational HVAC be used or the parking lot, Don- answered that he is not requesting change in order of projects, order of projects would continue to stay the same.

Bill Biedenstein: stated that lower parking lot is filled with cars during the week, it really is being used. Bill made a pledge to the capital campaign and said that he will continue to give and that he would assume that an affirmative vote to increase the capital campaign would be a commitment from members to step up on financial commitments they have made to the campaign to help increase giving to meet the needs.

Mary Morgan - stated that there seems to be a lot of irony to a group wanting to add \$100,000 to capital campaign, when the budget is deficit of \$100,000, are we wanting to take care of our cars or are we taking care of the mission of our Church?

Sandy Harris shared concern about additional money for the parking lot, wondering if they just paved over how long would it last. Or would it be possible to increase the rent for those in ball fields since they are using the lot, or tell them not to rent the fields anymore, Karl responded that paving over the parking lot and not fixing problem below the surface we would be asking for failure, it would not last, and you are shortening the life of the pavement by at least half, and it would not be the safest or most efficient way to resolve the issue.

Kay Zinc: stated that she understands that we are under budget and if we don't keep the Church up people won't be come to the Church. Asked to clarify if money used so far in capital campaign was personal donations or if any of the money from estate donations. Don clarified that all the money in Capital Campaign so far is all individual giving. Kay stated she thinks we could raise the funds and do this.

Bill Linnenbringer: Voiced question related to use of ball fields by Lindbergh School district, how much it might be and that it would be a shame to disrupt the relationship with the School District, etc.

Sally Smith: Asked assuming the money is available what is the time frame for completion of the parking lot project. Carl answered we would proceed in the Spring.

Motion made by Don Lang proposing to increase the amount of target amount of the Capital Campaign from 750,000 up \$105,000 so request to go to \$855,000 to continue progress towards projects of parking lot, sanctuary roof, social hall, and any incidentals, and to keep the order of the projects as originally decided. The motion was seconded by Russ Cottle, no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Steve presented following Nominees for Council, Cemetery Board, Perpetual Endowment Trust and Lay Delegates for elected position for 2019.

Church Council

Debbie Ball
Gregg Heutel
Randy Jurgensen
Don Lang
Jill Meyer

Perpetual Endowment Trust

Mary Ellen Cox
Bob Heutel

Lay Delegate

Paul Litzsinger

Steve called for nominations from the floor. None were brought forth.

A motion was made by Paul Simmons to approve the slate of candidates by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Jim Butler and the slate of candidates was approved by acclamation by unanimous vote.

Chancel Accessibility Options:

Steve reviewed the discussions of providing ADA accessibility to the chancel area of the church. One option would be an automated lift to the left of the pulpit which would require major structural work, would be most expensive option, or the second option would be installing a ramp configuration which might mean removing the left half of two pews in the front of the sanctuary to have the ramp meet appropriate guidelines.

Barb O'Brien stated that she is in favor of the lift and reviewed discussions and work done to date. She noted that with a lift there would be no need to remove any pews. She reported that funds are available for the cost of a lift project. The cost would be estimated at \$40,000, there are donations that are earmarked for the lift. Barb questioning why we are not following through with the lift as the funds are available. We need to be more inclusive, have been working on this for two years.

Building & Grounds noted a structural survey could be done to look at ductwork and other structural work that might need to be done for a lift.

There was a review and discussion of Option Two which calls for a ramp which would require some reconfiguring of the front pews in front of the pulpit. Discussion included that ramp as an option would be accessible to all people, whereas a lift would have maximum weight and width requirements, and would inevitably break and require maintenance which a ramp would not. It was noted that a ramp would disrupt the aesthetics of the Sanctuary the least.

There was some confusion and much discussion about what exactly has been done and what is needed to make the chancel area ADA accessible, using either option. Discussion for understanding cost of options and how it will affect the budget.

Dorothy Gross suggested that the two groups with opposing ideas come together to work out a compromise and a solution to the issue of accessibility. Many in the congregation felt this was the best solution so this issue can move forward and in agreement with Dorothy's comments.

Bill Lowry reported that an independent architect has already come in to review the options of lift, versus permanent ramp, versus portable ramp, his expert opinion was that the permanent ramp was the most appropriate option.

A motion was made by Ted Ball to hire an independent third source to review the two options (lift or ramp) presented for ADA accessibility in the chancel area, bring drawings or renderings with cost estimates to either a special meeting or the next semi-annual meeting. The motion was seconded by Russ Cottle and the motion passed with a majority.

Steve also note that Building & Grounds is working on a railing for the podium for ease in stepping up and down.

Diversity Team:

Barb Smith reported that the Diversity Team continues to provide educational opportunities and discussions of Opening and Affirming at St. Lucas UCC. She recognized members of the Diversity Team at the meeting and asked members of the congregation with questions to contact a member of the Diversity Team.

Other New Business/Comments:

No new business added.

Congregational Comments:

Mary Morgan asked for clarification regarding the PET and the distribution of earned income to the general fund. She questioned whether this year's contribution would be 80 percent distribution and if not, why? She asked what criteria is used for distributing the monies and

suggested that the maximum contribution is important. Bill Linnenbringer noted PET is guided by the Constitution and Bylaws about distributions and that decisions were made as best interest and suggested those members of the congregation attend a PET meeting for further understanding.

Eric Theis began speaking about issues unrelated to the annual meeting at St. Lucas UCC and became disruptive and was asked to leave the meeting.

Ellen Littleton applauded the new carpet and the handicapped accessible restroom with the higher toilet.

Sandy Harris expressed concern about the security in place at St. Lucas UCC. Pastor Eric noted that he and the Head Usher will be looking at continued efforts to keep St. Lucas UCC parishioners safe at all times.

Lauren Hoggatt thanked Steve Sobo and Dan Coughlin for their "Spirit of St. Lucas" moments throughout the year.

Thanks to Joan Morris and Jan Wenk for their continued service to St. Lucas UCC with their landscaping efforts.

Tom Winter expressed concern about allowing politics to get into church life. He feels politics are divisive to the service. Adam Rustige noted that the subject of politics in the service came up before and stated that the use of politics is broad and wanted clarification of what is meant about politics, and suggested some discussion for all to better understand the issues involved.

Dave Johnston raised the question about publishing the survey done regarding the worship services. The survey is posted on the St. Lucas UCC Website but Pastor Eric noted that he will have copies printed and put in the Welcome Center for those who would like a printed copy. He reported that work is being done to include a more participatory element at 11 am while not just including more traditional aspects to the contemporary service. Staff is still considering other possible changes to the service.

A comment was made about where the Council minutes were posted. The minutes are posted on the bulletin board to the left of the kitchen windows in the upper right corner of the bulletin board. Steve will mention posting of the minutes for easier access.

Bill Biedenstein thanked the St. Lucas UCC Pastoral staff and staff and Steve Sobo and members of the Council for their hard work and efforts on behalf of the congregation in 2018.

A motion was made by Lannie Wingermuehler to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Bundy and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted collaboratively Shannon Givens, Secretary & Pat Stephens, Note Taker.

