

St. Lucas UCC Church Council

September 26, 2017

Attendance: Barb Beck, Mary Ellen Cox, Shannon Givens, Julie Hubbell, Cynthia Rosfeld, Paul Simons, Pat Stephens, Pastor Keith Herron, Kelly Archer

Absent: Russ Cottle, Don Lang, Steve Sobo, Carol Stelmach

Paul read the opening prayer, which had been provided by Steve Sobo.

Paul reviewed the Consent Agenda previously sent to Council members and available in the Council packet and called for any questions. He asked if there were any objections to adopting the Consent Agenda as submitted. Hearing no objections, the items in the Consent Agenda, were adopted.

Pastor Keith introduced Kelly Archer, 2nd year student at Eden Seminary, who will be at St. Lucas UCC for the fall and spring semesters. Pastor Eric is working on a “tour” schedule for Kelly to get to know St. Lucas and the congregation. Amy Farfan, AV Coordinator, is assessing current equipment and systems and helping coordinate the AV schedule.

Pastor Keith shared a handout “Digging Deeper,” about a project which grew out of the young adult BBQ, and asking Council for feedback. Digging Deeper will provide a discussion a guide for the sermon, reviewing the scripture text and providing the “big” ideas raised during the sermon and questions to “dig deeper” into Sunday’s sermon with another person or a small group. This could be an opportunity to look at the sermon in a small-group setting (visual or perhaps on-line). Pastor Keith asked for Council feedback. It was suggested that he work with Megan Ligeti to develop communication material and roll this out after the first of the year. The AV Committee is also working on having sermons available to re-listen, in the near future.

This will be a way to create small groups (a goal of the strategic plan), for congregation members to have a chance to come together (in person or online) for a shared moment with member(s) who want to come together for discussion. There is also some consideration also being given for email/chat room on the internet for online chat. Pastor Keith and the IT will continue to work on the concept and he will report back to Council.

Thank you to Dr. Terrell Carter, Pastor at Webster Groves Baptist Church, for “switching” pulpits with Pastor Keith.

Old Business

Nominating Committee

Paul reported that the Nominating Committee – Bill Brinkhorst, Mary Ellen Cox, Joan Gildehaus, Bill Linnenbringer, and Adam Rustige – met to begin filling slots for Council, Boards and Lay Delegates.

Cemetery Board Fee Increase Proposal

Paul presented a formal proposal from Cemetery Board (see attached proposal) regarding increasing lot prices and service fees which had previously been shared with Council in the packet. The questions previously asked by the Council were also covered in the document. A goal of the Cemetery Board is to maintain the perpetual care funds for cemetery operations and to stay in line with pricing of other cemeteries in the area.

A motion was made Barb Beck to approve the Cemetery Board proposal as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Cox and the motion passed unanimously.

Paul will share the Council's appreciation to the Cemetery Board for their time and effort in submitting the formal proposal and explanations.

Annual Planning Event

Paul discussed the all-church Annual Planning Event to set goals for St. Lucas UCC, a time for the congregation to come together to plan for the year. The "retreat" could be held off site with open questions about the course of the congregation's future. Paul will look into setting a date and place for the event.

New Business

Constitution and Bylaws

Paul reported that the work will begin on changes to the St. Lucas UCC Constitution and Bylaws. At the suggestion of the Governance Action Team, Paul will solicit former Council Presidents to form a team to amend the Constitution and By-Laws. Proposed changes will be presented to the congregation for input and discussion before a vote is considered.

2018 Budget

Paul reported that Stewardship continues to work on the 2018 budget with the goal of a balanced budget and continues to look for areas of cost savings. The recent Capital Campaign has been well-supported by the congregation. Stewardship believes some of 2016 and 2017 giving has been directed to the campaign at the expense of the general fund. Paul reported that one change to the budgeting process in future years will be the combination of all mission activity under a single umbrella. In a recent meeting with Gary Dollar, he shared thoughts on stewardship and goals and suggested moving to a narrative budget, instead of line items, discussing where the money donated is going.

Blessing of the Pets Mailing

Shannon Givens discussed a recent flyer her family had received from St. Lucas. As she and her husband are both members, she questioned the wording of the flyer, as they wondered if

others were confused by the wording. Pat and Cynthia will take the question to Membership & Evangelism.

Special Blessing

Ed Hubbell will be honored with a special blessing during 9 am worship on October 1, as he is being deployed to Afghanistan. Special blessings are planned for Sean Kingsland as he leaves for Marine boot camp in November and Dave Rodgers who will be deployed in January.

Thank you to Pastor Keith for leading the St. Lucas UCC flock, as you celebrate your 3rd anniversary!

Calendar

October 1	9:00 a.m. – Communion
October 8	11:00 a.m. – Blessing of the Pets
October 15	9:00 a.m. – Music Sunday
October 24	6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting
October 26	7:00 p.m. – Cabinet Meeting
October 29	4:00 p.m. – Trunk or Treat

A motion was made by Shannon Givens to adjourn the Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Rosfeld and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

To: Russ Cottle

From: Cemetery Board

The last time cemetery fees were increased was January 1, 2014. At that time, Board members provided volunteer service for important Cemetery duties. On January 2017, the volunteer support for grave layout, headstone layout, and various activities at the Maintenance Shed stopped. This volunteer support has ended and the work is now being subcontracted. These costs have been absorbed by the Cemetery Board during 2017.

During the past several years, Board members have spent many hours studying the cost structure and evaluating our future needs to increase our fees. We are not providing a lengthy justification for the proposed price increases. We have completed a review of fees charged by 4 neighboring cemeteries and have determined that our current fees are low. We offer a few major items that we are expecting in the future. In 2016, the Cemetery Board spent \$30,000 replacing the east-west road in the center of the Cemetery. The Church contributed nothing to this project. Additional road maintenance will be required in the future. We are anticipating significant costs related to tree trimming and tree maintenance as many of our trees are being attacked by wasp galls and many of our trees are damaged by storms throughout the year, and many of our trees are at the end of their life. The Board is planning to hire a professional arborist to provide a comprehensive recommendation to us for managing the trees in the Cemetery.

Our proposed fee increases are listed in the tables below

Pricing:

Package	Current	Proposed
2-grave lots:	\$1,700.00	\$1,900.00
3-grave lots:	\$2,550.00	\$2,850.00
5-grave lots:	\$4,250.00	\$4,750.00
6-grave lots:	\$5,100.00	\$5,700.00

Grave Opening Pricing:

Service	Current	Proposed
Weekday: Conventional	\$950	\$1,400
Weekday: Ash	\$500	\$850
Weekend: Conventional	\$1150	\$1,650
Weekend: Ash	\$700	\$1,150

Fees Associated with Grave Openings:

Service	Ash	Conventional
Lot Layout	\$200	\$200
Monument Foundation Layout		
Showing		
Grave Digging	Weekday: \$500 Weekend: \$700	Weekday: \$950 Weekend: \$1,150

In response to questions raised by the Council at the August meeting, we provide the following answers

Questions:

- ? Will the price increases match or supersede the additional costs the cemetery has incurred since volunteers have been replaced with contractors? **Yes**
- ? Will these price increases allow us to operate in the black for the year? (I may have read this wrong, but it looked like July we operated at (\$3,482.02), but for the year we are up \$7,088.34.) Will these increases cover your expenses? **Yes**
- ? Why is there no option for 1 grave lot? **Board Policy**
- ? In 2015, there was a question about 1 or 2 lots, the only option was 3. Is that true? Does anyone have any history on this? **We sell 2 grave lots and 3 grave lots**
- ? Is there an ability to sell back a lot? **No, Board Policy**

We trust this adequately responds to issues raised by the Church Council.