

St. Lucas United Church of Christ  
Church Council  
December 12, 2017

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

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

Absent: Russ Cottle, Carol Stelmach

2018 Council Members Mike Bohn, Julie Hubbell, Bill Lowry, Cynthia Rosfeld serving a one-year term. Bill Linnenbinger absent.

Pat Stephens led the Council in prayer.

Paul asked the “old” and “new” Council to Introduce themselves.

Paul reviewed the Consent Agenda previously sent to Council members and available in the Council packet and called for any questions. None were noted.

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

### **Senior Pastor’s Report**

Pastor Keith thanked the Council for their gift to staff presented on Tuesday morning. The staff was appreciative of the gift.

Pastor Keith reported work on small group discussions, formerly titled “Digging Deeper,” a new project to engage the congregation in conversations around a Sunday sermon. Pastor Keith will have an article describing the new discussion groups in the January *Visitor* and trial groups are being recruited currently for the project to be launched after Ash Wednesday. Materials will be available after a Sunday sermon (probably electronically) for discussion face-to-face or electronic discussions.

Pastor Keith reported that governance development continues. The Mission team is continuing to organize around mission and purpose and work will begin on the other core values – Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Administration in the future. It is important to engage the congregation in the process moving forward.

Pastor Keith discussed the annual meeting and the challenging issues brought forward. He reported that he and Pastor Eric had had several conversations from comments at the annual meeting and he noted that he and Paul Simons had also engaged participants. Steve Sobo has been kept in the loop of discussions. Pastor Keith felt that the conversations were appropriate and stressed the importance and encouragement to talk with Pastors or Council members about concerns a member of the congregation may have about topics or process on an ongoing basis.

Cynthia reported that Council members will be getting calls from Diversity Team as they begin the next step in their process.

### **Financial Report**

Don Lang noted that St. Lucas UCC has been blessed as the year comes to an end with an anonymous donation and additional monies from the Goddard estate. St. Lucas UCC will end the 2017 year with a surplus. He noted this has been an unusual financial year in that while we were able to fund the first phase of Cool, Safe, and Dry with monies pledged (\$494,000 collected and \$136,000 pledged for 2017 – 2020 projects, with \$89,000 for the back-parking lot project), regular offerings were down for the year. It will be important for the Council and the congregation to be wise stewards of these funds. All requests for new projects/programming will continue to follow the usual process of being presented to the Stewardship Committee for evaluation and then to the Council.

Don noted he will be talking with Building & Grounds about back parking lot project.

### **Old Business**

Pastor Keith updated the Council on conversation regarding worship services at St. Lucas. He and Pastor Eric are working on ideas for a team/group brought together, Pastors and members, to critique and assess worship in all three services and develop a path forward for Council and congregation consideration. The Council talked about the many opportunities and challenges that beginning this discussion will have but felt it important that the conversation and assessments begin.

### **New Business**

#### **Staff Transition**

Paul reported that Pastor Carol would announce her retirement during worship services January 13 – 14, 2018. A letter will be mailed to members of the congregation from Pastor Keith, Paul as President of the Council and Sue Simmons as Chair of Church and Ministry, thanking Carol for her service to St. Lucas UCC and the process moving forward to search for a half-time pastor. Council Special Events will plan a celebration for Pastor Carol between services on Sunday, January 14.

#### **Pastor Housing Allowances**

Paul presented requests for 2018 Pastor housing allowances (as reviewed by Church and Ministry): Pastor Keith Herron - \$45,000; Pastor Eric Moeller - \$13,000; and Pastor Carol Keller - \$800.00.

A motion was made by Don Lang to approve the 2018 Pastor housing allowances as presented: Pastor Keith Herron - \$45,000; Pastor Eric Moeller - \$13,000; and Pastor Carol Keller - \$800.00. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Rosfeld and the motion pass unanimously.

#### **Beepball Tournament and Banquet**

Mission and Outreach Committee is running the Beepball Tournament and Banquet, to benefit the visually impaired and requested use of the Social Hall May 19, 2018. The banquet will be catered, with members of Mission and Outreach participating in set-up and clean-up.

A motion was made by Don Lang to approve the request of Mission and Outreach to hold the Beepball Banquet in the St. Lucas UCC Social Hall on May 19, 2018. The motion was seconded by Pat Stephens and the motion passed unanimously.

**Poinsettias** have been purchased to honor our deployed military and their families - RCT Sean Kingsland-USMC, Lt. Col. Ed Hubbell, Air Force Reserves-Scott Air Force Base, Staff Sergeant Jason Lee-USAF, Sergeant Leland Slagle-Texas Army National Guard.

### **Dates to Remember**

December 17	2 pm	Christmas Cantata
December 24	10 am	Combined Worship
	3 pm	Family-Friendly with Communion
	9 pm and 11 pm	– Candlelight Worship
December 25	10 am	Christmas Day Worship
January 6	5:00 pm	Installation and Commissioning of Council and Boards
	6:15 pm	Council Holiday Party at the Langs
January 7	9 am	Worship with Communion and Installation/Commissioning
	11 am	Worship with Communion and Installation/Commissioning
January 13	8 am	Council Retreat
January 23	6 pm	Council Meeting

Paul and the Council thanked Don Lang, Carol Stelmach and Pat Stephens for their service to St. Lucas UCC.

The 2018 Council was asked to stay after adjournment for election of 2018 Council officers.

A motion was made by Cynthia Rosfeld to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Cox and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

**2018 COUNCIL** – After conclusion of the regularly-scheduled Council meeting, the 2018 Council members discussed the roles and responsibilities of each position and nominated the following officers for 2018:

President – Steve Sobo  
Vice President – Barb Beck  
Secretary – Shannon Givens  
Financial Secretary – Bill Linnenbringer  
Treasurer – Mary Ellen Cox

Upon motion by Paul Simons and seconded by Mary Ellen Cox, the nominated Officers for 2018 were elected unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Stephens, Secretary