

Unapproved Minutes
Meeting 10/18/15
UCS Council
UCS Library

Meeting called to order at approximately 11:30am

Present: Bill Burden, Moderator; Joey Hawkins, Stewardship; John Hawkins, Trustees; Russ Farley, Nominating & Deacon; Becky Bailey, Deacon; Dori Wolfe, Clerk & Religious Ed; Danette Harris, Mission; Lynn Wickberg, Interim Pastor.

Absent: Kerry Claffey, Treasurer; Kathy Robinson, Religious Ed;

1. Bill call the meeting to order and Lynn offered a prayer.
2. Comments from Lynn: Bible study is going well. Lynn reminded us that the day/time is flexible. The lectionary reading for the Study and the following Sunday will be put in the bulletin and email weekly update.
3. Minutes from council meeting on 8/23/15 and 9/27/15 were not available for review, thus tabled until next meeting.
4. Lord's Acre Preliminary Results: Approximately \$1,400 in cash, with some ham donations still to come, which will cover the cost of the hams. In addition, there will be about \$800 in advertising revenue. Anna donated her music. Thank you notes will be written by Joey and Dori, for show and dinner respectively.
5. Church Clerk: Due to changes in her family situation, Dori may be away from Strafford for the winter months. The council requested she write up a job description with an estimated time commitment for the position of secretary, in include not only weekly printing of bulletins, but also the weekly email update, the weekly listserve announcement, updating the website and facebook as needed, and helping with mailings and newsletter, should any get published during that time. Separately, Dori and Lynn will meet with Kathy to discuss RE in light of this change. Taking minutes of the monthly council meetings would be shared among board members. [Not discussed – should there be a deputy clerk?] Scheduling visits to Bonnie should ideally be overseen by Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The church volunteer schedule will be prepared before January.
6. Trustees Report: The budget is on track. The new front steps at the roadside are wonderful. A “real” plumber has been retained to fix the sink and install a new toilet at the church. Suggestions for the third trustee include Herbert Goertz and Steve Willbanks. John clarified that he will only serve one more year, although the org chart shows him at the two year slot.

It was pointed out that an addendum (draft proposed below) to the By-Laws amendment voted in by the congregation at the September 2015 annual meeting would be needed to

fulfill the intent of the vote. Under Article VI – The Pastor, Section A, Calling a Pastor, the final sentence has been changed to be “The Pastor will be a non-voting ex officio member of all Boards, Committees and Task Forces.” To be consistent, the Council recommends omitting the words “the Pastor,” from Article V, Section A. “The voting members of the Council are the Moderator, the Chair of each Board and Standing Committee, **the Pastor**, the Treasurer and the Clerk of the Church, or their delegate.” The council is defined as the governing board, so under Article VI, the Pastor will be a member of the Council, but consistent with the sense of the amendment, he/she will be a non-voting member of the Council.

7. Deacons Report: It was recommended that a search for a music director wait until after a settled pastor is in place. Becky will help facilitate service music in the interim, particularly focusing on special music for Christmas, which will be at 8:00 pm this year. Dori will help facilitate the Thanksgiving ecumenical service, 10:00 am on Thanksgiving Day. It was reminded that all copies of minutes appropriate for public dissemination should be forwarded to the clerk, for possibly including on the website. It was recommended that Emily Zollo, who helps with the Children’s Program at the library, might help teach how to upload files onto websites. The deacons celebrate the 5 wonderful deacons, and would love to train one more to join them.
8. Stewardship Committee: 20 pledges have come in, on track for this time of year, totaling \$35,000 of the \$40,000 pledged. Will consider whether an additional follow-up letter is needed. It was recommended that possibly a mid-November letter, including a Christmas greeting from the council/pastor and holiday newsletter and special envelop all be included in the mailing.
9. Settled pastor search: The transition ad hoc committee reported that they will post the questions in the sanctuary, announcing/encouraging community input. After two weeks, the information will be compiled, reviewed, and after input from the council at the next meeting, a recommendation for the search committee be made.
10. Mission Committee: The Progresso Soup drive was announced. They agreed to sponsor a Conservation Camper, and Trudi Brock’s “End 68 hours of Hunger” non-profit. They sponsored a crop-walk walker and support the delivery of senior meals on wheels in Strafford. They would like to collaborate efforts with youth. Brenda has stepped down for personal reasons.
11. Safe Church Policy: It was recommended this be addressed after the first of the new year.
12. Pastoral Relations Committee: One deacon (Greg Lewis) and one trustee (John Echeverria) plus one member-at-large selected by the pastor (to be determined), with the goal to meet every other month or as needed, to facilitate communication.
13. Other Business: Lynn proposed and the council agreed that we celebrate the church new year and the first Sunday in Advent (Nov. 29) with a potluck after church. In addition, the council concurred with recreating the Advent Devotional Booklet, inspired by one Lynn found from 1994. Submissions to be in by Nov. 19th.

Next Meeting: Third Sundays of the month – so November 15 at 11:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dori Wolfe / Clerk