

Christ United Methodist Church  
Council minutes  
January 1, 2023

Present were Hollie Kessler, Mike Linville, Pastor Bruce Mowery, Joan Banning, Nick Fetchina, Carol and John Yarian, Scott Gillespie, Marlen Slagel, Jack Dwigins, and Jake and Emily Mayer.

Scott called the meeting to order and asked Pastor Bruce to open with prayer. He then asked for times we had seen God at work. Pastor Bruce shared the experiences of those in Brianna's Hope who were supportive of others in the group and cheered each other on as they fellowshiped together.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as emailed.

Jack reported for Discipleship. In the survey given the congregation, the discipleship area of obedience was identified as one of concern for respondents. As result, Paula Thoennes will begin a class on Obeying Jesus on January 22, 4:00 to 5:30, replacing the Bible Study class at this time. Jack has visited different groups regarding this class, asking that persons attend and then share the information with the groups they represent. The class will be in person in the pastor's study or by Zoom and the link is on the church website.

Marlen shared from the Staff Parish committee for Claude Sawyer. Since they have not met for the new year, there was no news to report.

Nick reported from the finance committee that we had finished the year in the black. December had been a good month with \$70,000 in income. Missions have been well supported. The committee is considering merging the separate scholarship funds to make accounting simpler.

Carol reported that small groups are being added, and Pastor Bruce will be leading a new Lenten study in February. Pastor Kurt and Julie Johnson will lead "God and the Gay Christian" starting January 23, 6:30 to 7:30. Ongoing groups are continuing to meet regularly. She said that Aroma is doing well, expenses for the donuts is close to being covered each week, and more coffee was needed so a larger pot is now being used. Jubilee had been very successful and 20 families with 58 children were given a special Christmas. In addition Carol had been able to serve 2 more families in a difficult situation. The Kids Closet has been running out of clothing and is need of more donations. Community members have been making contributions, which has been most helpful. New volunteers have been added to this team. Coming up before Lent will be the Fat Tuesday celebration on February 21 and Soup and Bread along with the Ash Wednesday service on February 22. Carol is also planning an Art Studies event in March. She stated that the AEDs and first aid supplies are checked monthly. Training for AED use, which has been done yearly, will be scheduled soon.

Since Pastor Kurt was attending the Early Learning meeting, Scott reported what he knew of the situation regarding the need for a new EL director/s. Currently 3 members of the Early Learning staff are serving as acting directors for the program. It is probable that this will continue for a time while permanent staff is being sought.

Emily reported for the children's ministry that she is working on events for the new year. Some events from last year that were well received will be scheduled again. This past Sunday the children gathered during Sunday School hour for the first time since COVID. A class, meeting during the SS hour, is being formed for parents, led by Elizabeth Freeman.

Scott indicated that Pastor Kurt is asking for help in recruiting persons to serve on several committees as there are many vacancies. A District training event is available for individual committees on February 25, 10:00 to 4:00 at the Delphi UMC. Also is an upcoming event sponsored by Conference Church Development, Breakthrough Prayer Event, on February 4, 10:00 to 3:00, at St. Andrew UMC.

Jake reported for the Youth ministry. They met for the first time since before Christmas. They helped with moving items to make space for supplies needed by the Brianna's Hope ministry. A special Lent/Easter event is being considered, similar to the Advent "Hanging of the Greens". Other plans for the year are being discussed.

Regarding the new technology purchased with grant funds, Jake said that the new cameras are ready, but microphones are on backorder, a supply chain issue. Training for the new equipment and for new tech volunteers will be done when possible. There are students who are interested in helping; he has 2 volunteers for each service at this time.

Mike Thoennes reported that 3 current trustees, with a year remaining on their terms, have resigned. With the discussion about a unified board no new trustees have been approached and the decision was to fill the vacancies first.

Further discussion ensued about the proposal for a unified board and the problem with recruiting volunteers. Scott commented that the unified board meant fewer persons making decisions. Letting the nominations committee continue to work was suggested. Questions were asked about members of various committees. These are listed on the website and Terra is working to update the list. Because of the unified board proposal, the nominations committee has not met and is currently on hold. They would be meeting in February and then would have information for the March Council meeting. Pastor Bruce commented that Jack Hartman could be invited to discuss the unified board. It was determined that the nominations committee should continue to seek volunteers for the committees, filling them as much as possible for the time being. Then a consideration of going to a unified board could be reconsidered and Jack Hartman could then be invited to present information and procedure. Marlen commented that Pastor Kurt had a process which he used to recruit volunteers which included asking suggested persons to meet in a gathering where they would consider their willingness to serve the church in some capacity. Carol indicated that she had earlier provided Pastor Kurt with a list of some individuals to be considered, but since the small nominations committee had not met, this was not seen by them. Hollie indicated that she, Terra and Carol could help in identifying possible recruits. In recruiting individuals, whether the committee member could explain what a particular committee did or the time expected of a member was discussed. Bruce also added that what could be considered is asking a person to commit to one year as a start and then decide if a full term was possible. To educate the congregation about the various committees Jake suggested that a short (3 minute?) video of each group/committee could be made with information about the purpose, importance and activity (time commitment) of each and then shared with the congregation on Sunday mornings. Jack referred to this as a "Reader's Digest version".

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and Jack closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Banning, Secretary.