

PLAINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MINUTES OF JANUARY 2017 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Those present: John Baer, Bill Edie, Jennifer Finesilver, Bree Dunscombe, Elizabeth Gilbert, Ken Loudenback, Bob Milligan, Kathy Perry, Mike Rohrer, Paul Schreiner, Nikki Shoultz, Melissa Shriner, Mike Simek, Todd Sprinkle, Vern Sullenger, Charlie Wilfong, Christie Wright.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome from Nikki and Charlie. Each person present briefly introduced themselves and Charlie gave an overview of the function of the Church Council. Vern passed around a Church Council contact list for corrections, and a signup sheet for devotions for the rest of the year. Vern then presented devotions from Max Lucado's book *Grace For The Moment*.

The minutes of the December 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

The group took a few minutes to discuss recent glory sightings.

Elizabeth presented the following report of the celebration of NewDay Praise in the Worship Annex for one year.

NewDay Praise One Year Celebration

On the first Sunday of 2016, PUMC hosted NewDay Praise Worship for the first time in the newly designed Worship Annex. Thanks to all for all contributed to the development of the space and for all that you've continued to contribute throughout this year. Your ministry and service has been generous, meaningful, and effective. Just to share a few measures that celebrate God at work in this ministry....

Worship Attendance: 2015 NewDay Worship averaged about 54 per Sunday with just two Sundays near or greater than 100 in attendance. 2016 NewDay Worship average attendance is 67 with six Sundays near or greater than 100. Christmas Eve worship for NewDay in 2015 was 49. Christmas Eve worship in 2016 was 95 - a near 100% increase. *Glory to God!*

Guests:

There have been few weeks when we have not received first-time guests in NewDay Praise this past year. I have on record at least 65 adult first-time guests this year. There were no doubt more who didn't complete a Connection Card. Many of these are regular attenders now, and some have joined PUMC as members. *Glory to God!*

Demographics:

Every age of worshiper has seemed to find a home in NewDay Praise. Families with children worship with us, young adults, families with teens, empty nesters and their adult children, and seniors, too, are a part of the regular worshiping community at NewDay. This diversity in age and lifestyle makes for a

community rich in spirit and gifts, as well as a solid foundation for effective, continued ministry and growth. *Glory to God!*

NewDay Praise Birthday Party:

Just this last Sunday (1/8/17) we celebrated our first birthday with music, cake, balloons and testimonies from some key leaders and worships. Highlights and glory sightings they mentioned include...

- The casual, intimate space that makes this style of worship more meaningful
- The assurance they've had of God's presence and leading
- Teamwork, camaraderie, fellowship of working with others
- Appreciation for the truly contemporary, creative style of worship
- Having found a worship home at PUMC that wasn't present before
- Having a place where kids and families can worship that is more conducive the active nature of kids
- Upgraded coffee

We also paired a mission project with our worship on Sunday ---- Birthday Bags for the local food pantry.

Thank you to the Council and other leaders who have stepped up and stepped out to make this happen. God is at work in NewDay. We are excited about this next year.

Charlie reported on the progress of the Values Clarification project. The following short list of words that describe our core values as they are or as we aspire for them to be was presented:

Love,
 kindness
 grace
respect,
 welcoming,
 accepting people where they are
(authentic) community,
 relational,
 “local”
service,
 responsibility,
 humility,
 stewardship
authenticity/integrity
excellence/innovation/creativity

The task force is continuing to meet in its' effort to identify who we are, who we want to be and possibly who we don't want to be.

There is a District Leadership Training event scheduled for January 29, 2017 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Castleton UMC. There will be various leadership area workshops one of which will be led by Elizabeth followed by the installation of new District Superintendent, Jim Bushfield. All Church Council Members are invited to attend.

Mike Rohrer reported that the Endowment Committee has completed the preparation of its' charter and procedural documents and met in January to establish the amounts available for grants in 2017 for the Worship, Music and Arts Endowment Fund, the Missions Endowment Fund and the Memorial Endowment Fund. Ken reported that we are the host church for Family Promise this week.

Bob reported for Staff Parish that Oma Buckner has fallen and broken a wrist and injured a shoulder. She is currently in rehab at Cumberland Trace. Lynn Blosser is filling in for her as Bell Choir Director during her recovery. Michael Pettry reminds us that there will be Choral Evensong on March 19 and a dedication recital for the pipe organ featuring Ken Cowan on May 7.

Paul reported for Trustees that the installation of LED lighting is progressing well thanks to plenty of volunteer labor. There will be an article in *Indianapolis Monthly* magazine probably in April about the renovations to the sanctuary that Guyco Construction did for us in preparation for the pipe organ installation. The photographer has been out to photograph the organ for this article. The photos have been shared with the church and with Reynolds Organ so that they can use them with the article which will feature our organ in *American Organist* magazine later this year. Paul also talked about the opportunity for people to take ownership in their church by doing volunteer work. There is way more that needs to be done around the church than we can afford to pay someone to do. Paul also reported that he has a friend who will have a flat bed printer capable of making up to 60 inch high vinyl signs. He would be willing to do some work for the church free in the interest of advertising and promoting this project.

Bill Edie presented the following Finance Committee report: Total 2016 income was \$1,015,628.60 with expenses of \$1,015,195.70 leaving a positive balance of \$432.90. This is very exciting as this is the first budget following our first Consecration Sunday. Although projected income was \$45,152.40 less than expected the year was very successful. Of the pledges turned in at Consecration Sunday 97% of those pledges were received. Finance will continue to find ways to communicate to the congregation the many ways to give to the church for the work of God!

Elizabeth reported that the transition to the digital Circuit Rider is progressing well. We have reduced the mailing from 700 copies to 60 in January. We are currently sending it to 1200 e-mail addresses.

Charlie closed the meeting with prayer at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vernon Sullenger, secretary

APPROVED 2/8/2017