

PLAINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2017 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Those present: John Baer, Bill Edie, Jennifer Finesilver, Bree Dunscombe, Ken Loudenback, Bob Milligan, Amanda Norton, Kathy Perry, Mary Raver, Nikki Shoultz, Mike Simek, Vern Sullenger, Charlie Wilfong, Tom Wiltrout, Mary Winters, Christie Wright, Mark Preis.

Nikki opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Kathy presented devotions "Are the 10 Commandments Enough" from the book *Sources Of Strength* by Jimmie Carter.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

Several Glory Sightings were reported. Included was this report from Elizabeth who was away at a conference: With thanks for the Council's support in providing funding to add additional seating recently in the Worship Annex, I share the following as a sighting of God's work for good among us: Through the first 14 weeks of 2017, worship attendance average in New Day Praise Worship was 79.5. That included two Sundays with attendance greater than 100 and many Sundays with attendance in the 80's and 90's. All good indicators and I give God thanks and glory for the ministry these numbers represent. But with just 100 seats, we were clearly hitting capacity on a regular basis. During the week prior to Palm Sunday we added (effectively) 23 seats, bringing out total capacity to 123. In the five weeks since, average worship attendance has been 104. Four of the five Sundays have had total attendance of more than 100. And just this last Sunday we baptized a teenager and received nine new members. Thank you for recognizing God's work among us through this ministry and continuing to support it with your prayers and good will. During this segment of the meeting we also discussed the overwhelming success of the organ dedication recital. Attached to these minutes is a report from the Bohlsen Group summarizing the publicity. It was reported that 550 people were seated somewhere in the general vicinity of the sanctuary.

Jennifer Finesilver reported for the Lay Leaders: Recently, the church hosted Choral Evensong which attracted 236 people to the church. With the recent completion of our pipe organ, we have a number of events scheduled to mark that occasion and also ensure we are doing a good job of staying thank you (the art of stewardship) with our fundraising practices. Former PUMC organist Vince Carr will play Sunday morning worship services as guest organist on Sunday, May 21. On the financial front, I am kindly reminding the church council at this very early date that funding for the PUMC music budget is not entirely covered by the church annual operating budget. Due to this, I must go out and secure additional dollars of support to provide for things like the community concerts, new music, and even to cover our Christmas Eve music most years. I am requesting advance conversation prior to the budgeting process to be certain that these modest needs of the music ministry are fulfilled not by the Director of Music spending time fundraising, but rather by the church's operating budget. It's so exciting all that PUMC offers to its members and to the community – what an example of walking the talk!

Tom, Charlie and Nikki reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on facility updates. They have prioritized the projects into four tiers and are working on getting a cost for each item. It was moved by Bill Edie and seconded by Kathy Perry that the committee be given permission to work with a focus group of top tier givers to gauge interest and support for these projects before crafting a strategy to move forward. The motion passed unanimously.

Nikki gave an update on the meetings that have been held to clarify the relationship between PUMC and the weekday children's ministries which take place in the church. An outline of those discussions is attached. A memorandum of understanding between those programs and PUMC is being prepared.

Bob Milligan reported for Staff Parish that a retirement reception for Oma Buchner will be held May 21 and that Lynn Blosser has accepted the position of Bell Choir Director. Bob Preusch has completed his course of study as a local pastor.

Mark Preis reported for Trustees that the lighting upgrades in the church building have been mostly completed and that the parking lot has been patched. The major drainage project that the town is undertaking in the vicinity of the church will not involve placing facilities on church property as the plans are currently.

Bill Edie made the following report for the Finance Committee: We were blessed in April with strong contributions from our congregation. Income was \$105,334.93. Total giving year to date is \$380,451.33 which is about \$30,000 above budget. Expenses for April were \$90,702.29 with YTD expenses at \$348,995.91 which is right at budget for the year. The month of April ended with a positive balance of \$14,632.64 and YTD positive balance of \$31,455.42. Joe Bennett has completed the annual audit with only a few minor issues. The full audit will be reviewed by Finance at our next meeting.

Due to some scheduling conflicts, our next meeting will be July 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Charlie closed us with prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vernon Sullenger, secretary

APPROVED 7/19/2017