

Park United Methodist Church
Church Council Minutes
December 20, 2018

Members Present: Kerry Beebe, Chris Velasco, Abbey Neptune, Carol Tower, Jon Weston, Bob Weston, Carl Jacobi, Twila Ehrich-Belton, Heather Aanes, Pastor Phil Strom, and Josh Greer

Members Absent: Pastor Dan Doughty, Roxi Grimsley, and Brock Reynolds

Jon brought the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pastor Phil began the meeting with prayer.

Agenda: Stood as presented.

Celebrations: Good roads for travel, upcoming Christmas vacation, academic achievements, time with family, unseasonably nice weather, the Advent and Christmas seasons, delicious treats (thanks Heather), children's programs, a new baby in the family, successful chemo treatment, and amazing medical capabilities available to us.

Minutes: The minutes of November 29, 2018, were posted to Slack earlier. Kerry noted there will be additional information provided on one of the topics. A motion was made by Kerry, seconded by Bob, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Retirement Benefits for Staff: Kerry clarified that staff qualifies for retirement 3% of qualified compensation after one year of employment. Employee must work 1,040 hours a year to qualify for the contribution. No motion was necessary as this is directed by the Plan Document and Adoption Agreement.

Final 2019 Budget: Jon Weston shared that several Council members met earlier in the week to review the budget in detail. He noted that most of the items on the budget are not discretionary. The budget presented is significantly lower than previous years; a very streamlined budget with very few areas to trim any further.

The Council spent considerable time discussing various sources for funds to balance the budget. Some of those funds could include rental income from Light of the Lakes and Montessori. PUMC has historically operated with a portion of the budget balanced with faith giving, not pledge cards; however, the gap is wider this year than it has been in the past.

The budget presented includes full payment of apportionments for 2019. The funds in the Building and Maintenance Fund are, most likely, already accounted for; the parking lot and the parsonage are going to need significant repairs and are not available for General Fund expenses.

The Council determined that a standing budget item will part of the Council agenda for the first six months of 2019 in order to keep track of the ongoing status of the budget. Pastor Phil suggested a small group of the Council meet between the end of the year and the January Council meeting to examine the spending, staffing, and stewardship in greater detail.

The budget presented totals \$284,479. A motion was made by Heather, seconded by Kerry, to approve the budget as presented with the recommendation that it be revisited monthly during the first six months of 2019. The Council has the realization the budget represents a \$40,000 deficit, with areas being explored for funding the shortfall. Motion carried unanimously.

2018 Apportionments: Jon noted that we are currently \$9,000 in arrears on apportionments. He explained there are areas where we can “borrow” from other funds to make the apportionments current with the understanding that if year-end borrowing doesn’t make up the deficit. A motion was made by Carl, seconded by Bob, to borrow the funds from the Tom Chelsey Memorial Fund to bring 2018 apportionments current should it be necessary. Motion carried.

Church Advertisement: Cassie received an e-mail from a local radio station selling 30-second for Christmas Eve advertising. Twila has written a script for an ad and we can record the spot on Friday, December 21, for broadcast thru Christmas Eve. The cost of the ads is approximately \$200. The Council agreed upon placing the ads.

Montessori Lease: Bob shared we have a newly signed lease. Phil noted we need to be sure the Montessori staff is aware of their limitations on the usage of the building. Bob and Pastor Dan will meet with the leader of Montessori regarding these issues at the beginning of January.

As the last agenda item concerned staff, Josh and Carl left the meeting at this time.

Staff Recognition Gifts: The Council discussed providing an end of the year holiday gift to the staff. As this was not in the budget, the approval of the expenditure requires Council approval. A motion was made by Heather, seconded by Kerry, to approve a gifts Cassie, Josh, Anna, Kim, Tom, and Brenda. Motion carried.

Open Discussion:

There were no items for discussion.

Phil closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Tower, Recording Secretary