

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

July 21, 2011

Council Chair: Marlene Hall

Recording Secretary: Yvonne Garvin

Present: Pastor Dick Broomall, Lana Beckley, Jennifer Bozard, Betsy Fanning, Kim Harris, Wayne Harris, Neva Heller, Mickey Hendrickson, John Johnston, Darrell Knapp, Bart Knapp, Anne Krecklow, Dale Prosser, Kyle Ripley, Marilyn Shokes, Rebecca Rink, Boy Scout Ben Niermann, and his mother, Betty Niermann.

Opening Prayer and Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:6-12

- Marlene read this passage which relates how we belong to God and are exhorted to show love to one another as evidence of God's love.
- Marlene distributed copies of the various committee reports to attendees for their review and discussion.

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes:

- Neva Heller made a motion to approve the minutes; Darrell Knapp seconded the motion.
- Council minutes of the May meeting were approved as submitted.
- Future meeting minutes will be approved via the email process begun with the last meeting minutes. No corrections submitted within three business days will be taken as sign of approval.

Old Business:

- It will be noted in the Sunday church bulletin and by the liturgist that the Council meeting minutes are posted on the website for viewing by the congregation and the public who access the website at www.mygraceumc.org.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Dick asked for approval for the recently made nominations for Trustee's positions; nominees were Hugh Knight and Bruce Philpott; also for approval of the three new Witness Committee members: Jackie Derington, Gay Prosser and Jan Stanley.
- Kyle Ripley made a motion to accept the above; Darrell Knapp seconded the motion which was passed.
- The Council members need to be considering nominees for various teams for 2012.
- A status report is forthcoming regarding Grace UMC's Vision statement. Pastor Dick is assembling a team of 12 to get together by September 15.
 - Focus will be on making contact with the community.
 - SPRC has approved Katherine (Katy) Brock for the position of Associate Pastor. She will join Grace UMC September 1. Katy has completed seminary and is a probationary deacon. Her ministerial responsibilities will include youth to young adult.
 - The "We Believe" Sunday sermons will continue and focus on the purpose of the church.
 - Attendance is the same or below expectations and slightly lower than last year. Average current attendance is 218; last year it was 238.
- Pledges are not up to the commitments made.
- The Church Council needs to:
 - Be prayerful for our vision and the church.
 - Continue to give.
 - Continue to serve what we are each called to do.

Finance Committee Report – Darrell Knapp

- Tithes are down.
- Budget cuts are not expected to have to be made at this point.
- Purchasing by credit cards should only be used for church business.

Trustees Report - Dale Prosser

- Lighting for the Sanctuary remains unresolved.
 - All options are complicated and/or expensive.
 - Bulb extensions or 200-watt bulbs may be tried as a temporary fix.
 - Dale will arrange for Sunbelt to deliver the appropriate equipment to replace lights; Glenn Bowdoin can operate the equipment.
 - Dale is working with experts familiar with church lighting to resolve the lighting issue, both for finding more efficient lighting solutions and replacing bulbs.
- Sanctuary weatherproofing issues are still being addressed. Fort Roofing will be notified to check the leak near the altar rail which occurred after a hard rain in early July.
- Church security remains an unresolved issue. We have cameras but need an installer.
- Exterior lighting of the church has been improved with the addition of SCE&G lights and the motion light outside the choir room.
- Landscaping/re-landscaping options are still being considered.
 - A suggestion was made that this could be a youth project.
 - Louise Phillips and Bruce Philpott will address a plan of action which will probably occur in the fall upon the onset of cooler weather.
- The Trustees are continuing work on a church manual.
- Weather stripping of classroom and office doors is on the UMM August workday schedule.
- Pest control is currently being handled by Terminex, who also does the parsonage; Ledford's is to give a quote for services which could be less expensive.
- Insurance clarifications are being dealt with by Eve Neuroth.
- Church A/C issues:
 - 5 ½ - ton unit compressor was replaced; 7 ½ - ton unit has slow leak, but okay for now.
 - Contractor added freon to nursery unit which is now working.
 - No bill for the 15 - ton unit has been received.
- The broken water cooler in the breezeway needs replacing.
 - An individual has offered to split the cost of a new cooler with Trustees.
 - Grainger has quoted \$581; Dale may be able to get a better price, and possibly a free one.
 - Chuck Heller can install the cooler during the UMM workday.
- A/C units around the church require different sizes of filters.
 - Dale has a list of locations and ID's.
 - He will purchase a year's supply of filters (\$350) and deliver to the church July 22.
 - He has obtained a footprint of the church and will mark the respective size filters for the units.
 - The filters only need to be changed every two months.
 - John Gailor offered to change them, and Kyle Ripley offered to help.
- Elwyn Woods has agreed to be the Transportation Coordinator of the church bus.
 - Any group approved to use the bus will pay \$1.00 per mile which will cover gas and maintenance.
 - Outside groups need approval to use the bus.
 - Rules and regulations will be determined and posted on the church website.
- Bart Knapp is installing speakers and a video screen in the narthex.
 - Nursery will also have speakers.
 - A wall will be built around the audio system upstairs to provide privacy.

- Office phone system is not acceptable and issues will be discussed with supervisor at Telecom.
- Rebecca Rink shared plans for a labyrinth for reflection and meditation.
 - The project was approved by the Trustees on July 12 for consideration by the Council.
 - It will be an Eagle Scout project of Life Scout Ben Niermann, with Troop #79 of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts will need to approve the project for the Eagle Scout Badge.
 - The labyrinth will be open to all, with the hope that it will offer a rich spiritual experience – a spiritual journey in prayer.
 - A Praise Band Jam fundraiser is scheduled for August 6 to help finance the project which is estimated to cost \$1,000 - \$5,000.
 - The site being considered for the labyrinth is at the left of the Sanctuary by the magnolia tree facing Stoney Street.
 - Dale suggested it should be low maintenance.
 - The Council voted to go ahead with the design portion of the labyrinth and bring it back to the Council for approval for installation.
 - Marlene suggested the congregation be informed of the project.
- Jennifer Bozard related that the house next to the Youth House on Memory Lane adjacent to church property may soon be up for sale in case the church would consider purchasing the property.
 - Jennifer offered to be the liaison between the sellers and the church so a realtor would not have to become involved, if the church was interested.
 - John Johnston noted that Grace has desired to expand its property boundaries to the west.
 - Darrell suggested the church needs to think about the budget for 2012.

Ministry Focus: None was scheduled for this Council meeting.

- Marlene reported on the Stephen Ministry leadership training conference she had recently attended in Orlando. Some aspects of the conference dealt with the changing demands on leaders in our churches.
 - Changing trends in America's churches was a main focus of the conference.
 - Church attendance is trending downward.
 - The United Methodist Church membership has decreased 7.4% in 1999 to 4.9% in 2009.
 - Much research has been done on unchurched people; what brings them back to church is when church members reach out to them when they have problems.
 - New means of communication in today's world – media, networking and the expectations for leadership responsibilities.
 - Demands are such that teams are needed within the church to better meet the needs of the members and the community.
 - Marlene observed that the information she received at the conference coincides with Pastor Dick's visioning for the future of Grace UMC.
 - If we believe we have a timeless message, we need to let people know we are there when they need us.
 - To bring people to church, expect change to fit the culture of today.
- Darrell said she would like to see Grace UMC do more outreach; fellowship is good but we need to be reaching out more to the community.

Kyle Ripley closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned.