

Church Council Meeting January 20, 2015

In attendance: Carla Heister, Luisa Gladu, Diane Ashworth, Jackie Palance, Bill Katt, Susan Powers, Vivian Brackett, Heidi Flower, Matti Verzino, Beth Provost, Pastor Sorozan, Christa Zaldavar, Terry Parker, Lang Ashworth, Tim Krauss and Tammy Pelletier.

Opening prayer provided by Pastor Sorozan, devotions by Diane Ashworth.

November 18 minutes will be approved at the February meeting as they were not yet available to council members.

The change in time of Council meetings was discussed. It was decided that the Faith in Action committee would meet at 6:30 pm before council meetings with Council beginning at 7:30. If FIA meetings could be completed in less time, Council would be moved back to 7:00.

Reports

Education: Christa Zaldavar reported that attendance is down as it usually is following the busy December activities. Pretzel Sunday would be scheduled in Lent.

Robert Fund: Beth Provost reported that she had a conversation with one of the Board members of the Roberts Foundation. They indicated that they wanted their donation to PUMC to be used for the church and stewardship rather than outside organizations. The committee will discuss different ways to use the money.

Finance: Tim Krauss discussed the Financial Report presented to the Council. He pointed out that we still owe \$9,000 for our Apportionment. The church has received 96% of its pledged income for 2014 and a larger than expected Christmas special offering total. A letter is being sent out to church members asking for help regarding our Apportionment responsibilities. Jackie Palance added that statements would be available soon and that information regarding Electronic Giving would be included with the statements.

Matti Verzino reported on the ongoing Gift Cards fundraiser. The sale of gift cards went well over the holidays but now sales are down. It was decided that besides bulletin notices, posters around the church would be a good idea to remind people that the gift cards are always available. A notice will be put in the Tower and Web page.

Women's Group: Jackie Palance reported that the Chili Cook-off was being held this Sunday, Shrove Tuesday in February and a Movie Night would also be coming up in March.

Middle Ages: Luisa Gladu reported the committee was working on the program for the Renaissance Dinner in May and also for the Relay for Life event being held on June 6.

History Committee: Vivian Brackett reported that the History Committee received a thank you note from the Historical Society for participating in the Tour of Churches event.

MYF: Tammy Pelletier reported that the youth group was making plans to participate in the Relay for Life event, will volunteer once a month at the soup kitchen and that their coat drive had received 12 coats so far. Tammy reported that they had 8 members in MYF.

Music: Heidi Flower reported that the bell choir was looking for new members as a few had dropped out. The Senior Choir will begin rehearsals for the Palm Sunday Cantata. The choir is also planning on having a Hymn Sing and presenting "Instructions for Hymn Singing" in our hymnal to try to encourage more singing from the congregation.

Faith in Action: Susan Powers reported that there will be a VIM (Volunteers in Mission) meeting on January 26 at 7:00 to discuss the next journey to help Hurricane Sandy victims. Members from the

October trip should attend and anyone else with an interest in helping. The next journey is tentatively planned for the end of April.

Membership: Susan Powers explained membership procedures for people who no longer supported the church by attending activities or helping financially. A list is compiled and letters are sent out to those people over a 3 year period encouraging them to return to the church. Anyone who indicates that they still wish to remain members, or that they have joined another church, are removed from the list. The remaining names receive a second and third letter, and if no response is received they are removed as members at the next Annual Conference meeting.

Scholarship: Diane Ashworth reported the Grinder sale was in progress and grinders would be available on February 1, Superbowl Sunday.

Pastor Sorozan: Bob reported that District Resource Days were being held on January 31 in Newtown and February 8 in Wethersfield. Wayne Smith will be the guest preacher this Sunday, January 25.

Next Council meeting will be February 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Provost