

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Leadership Council
Minutes

February 14, 2016

Present: Sue Buday – President, Michelle Loukotka, Kris Lovelace, Shannon O’Reilly, Karen Samford, Cresson Sloten, Sue Wortman and Pastor John Kennedy

Pastor John opened the meeting with prayer.

President Sue Buday welcomed the group. She is excited about the smaller council and would like to help keep the church moving forward.

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2016 was approved.

Sue welcomed Kris Lovelace and Sue Wortman to the Leadership Council.

Updates from Ministry Teams

Facilities - is looking at the boiler situation.

ONA Taskforce – is continuing to move forward. Jess is having two Bible studies on the “clobber passages”. A subcommittee is working on putting together a workshop or panel discussion to be held in March after worship which will most likely include life experiences and dialog. There has not yet been a date set for the vote.

Finance – had a representative from Bank of Ann Arbor attend. He went over our investment accounts which he feels are in the same condition as most. If we want to withdraw funds to cover the budget shortfall, he felt it might be good do so now, rather than waiting as the market may fall again. Jeff Wortman is working on a commercial line of credit for the parsonage repairs (furnace/air conditioning, windows, siding and driveway replacement.) We would pay interest only during the period of use, and then begin payments. Stewardship program will start with meetings after Easter.

Note – There was a sewage backup at the parsonage due to debris left in the line during the city’s replacement work last summer. Repairs are being covered by the city including cleaning, flooring etc.

Leadership Council Liaisons – Liaisons are to remind the teams of the core values and vision of the church and pass on anything of which the Leadership Council wants the teams to be aware, as well as bringing anything from the teams to the Leadership Council. The teams are responsible for deciding how to do their work.

New Liaisons: Kris – Fellowship, Sue Wortman - Member Care, Sue Buday - Outreach and Youth and Young Adult

Continuing Liaisons: Michelle – Facilities, Shannon – Finance and Worship, Cresson – ONA Task Force, Karen – Education and Welcome

Core Values and Vision Statement - Pastor John talked about the importance of having core values and a vision statement. At a retreat last March, the Leadership Council, Team chairs and church staff came up with 4 core values, increased to 5 or 6 at a follow-up retreat October 31st. A group created to write up the results of those meetings has not yet had time to meet. When the group finishes their work, it will be brought to the Leadership Council for approval and then taken to the congregation. Once the core values are in place, the visioning process will begin, with congregational input, followed by decisions on how to meet the vision.

Meeting Time/Date – We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Jessica Joslin's Discernment Process – Jess wants to meet with the Leadership Council on March 8th to present her paper for the Ecclesiastical Council. Pastor John asked Sue to have Jess send her paper to him as well as to the Leadership Council and to have her meet with him.

Banner Request - Pastor Greg has requested the church put out banners created by Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice and Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County, which read: "One Human Family, We support refugees and our Muslim neighbors". Pastor John and the Outreach Team are in agreement.

A motion was approved to temporarily replace the banner on the Fifth Ave fence, with a new banner supporting the refugees and Muslims, leaving the current banner in the front of the church.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting – March 8th, 7:00 p.m.