

# Bethlehem United Church of Christ Leadership Council Minutes

May 10, 2016

Present: Sue Buday-President, Michelle Loukotka, Kris Lovelace, Shannon O'Reilly, Karen Samford, Cresson Slotten, Sue Wortman and Pastor John Kennedy

The meeting was opened with scripture and prayer by Pastor John.

• **A motion to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting was approved.**

Ministry team updates:

Welcome Ministry Team – is still without a chair. Pastor John has an idea and will make a call tomorrow to ask if that person would step in for the remainder of the year.

Member Care – would like to start the Stephen Ministry program. The Leadership Council supports Member Care in this endeavor. A few people will attend training to become Stephen Leaders and will then train several Stephen Ministers. There is a cost per congregation plus a cost per leader trained as well as some materials. Some funds need to be allotted for this training.

Bethlehem Friends - Five of the members of Bethlehem Friends have signed up for training on how to do home communion visits.

Bethlehem Friends will also be in charge of seeing that booklets and a note are sent periodically to those who have had a loss.

Facilities – will be starting with the ceiling in the ladies room.

ONA is planning for the vote on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be written ballots with the Leadership Council handling the counting. This will be a single motion to accept Bethlehem as ONA and accepting the Covenant of Welcome. There will be hymn singing during the counting. With an affirmative vote we will be signing large posters of the Covenant of Welcome, ringing the bells and taking lots of photos.

A larger celebration will be planned following our being officially certified as an ONA congregation by the Open and Affirming Coalition.

**John's report** – The lack of a chair for the Welcome Ministry Team, and the Member Care Ministry Team starting a Stephen Ministry program were already been mentioned.

John feels a growth model would include the two services with an hour in between with faith formation classes for youth and adults.

A decision needs to be made on how to use Martha Ebinger's \$15,000 donation intended to help with children. This could be improvements to the current nursery or a cry room under the balcony in the sanctuary.

## **Visioning/Core Values**

The congregation wants a sense of where we are going.

We spent the remainder of the meeting brainstorming this issue and scheduled another session on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

A meeting to continue discussion of core values will be held Tue, May 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of Michelle Loukotka.

Next Leadership Council Meeting is Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Submitted by Karen Samford, Secretary