

**Minutes for February 1, 2022
CCUMC Council Meeting**

UMC Mission : Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ and sharing Christ.

CCUMC Mission: To be a Bible-centered community, sharing the Word and our love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. We envision ourselves as a spiritual hub for the community, growing in faith, sending out disciples, and living our faith in the world.

Attending by ZOOM: Keith and Nancy Luscombe, Pastor John Lucy, Martha Burbridge, Marsha Mason, Kevin Hunt, Garnet Olson, Hannah Darling

Keith Luscombe called the meeting to order at 6:33.

Opening Devotions: Pastor John had asked us to have different members tell the Council some things about ourselves. He also mentioned singing a couple of verses of a familiar hymn, once the current worry of COVID is past. (That was not mentioned at last night's meeting. (Be forewarned.) Nancy went first. Kevin volunteered for March.

A motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Martha to accept the minutes from the Jan. 4 meeting as printed. It passed unanimously.

An update followed, with Hannah telling us what the bulletin boards are supposed to be used for. The last minutes recorded the use of the board in the entry to the Sunday School wing, but not the other boards. At this meeting Hannah updated us on the bulletin board to the right of the bathrooms. It is for notices to the church such as Thank You notes and correspondence from past members. It was decided that this is also where we will post the approved minutes of Council meetings. Nancy will be responsible for that.

Nancy mentioned that Jean Anderson spoke to her about feeling like she doesn't know what's going on in the church. Marsha said several people have mentioned it to her as well. We do send the Council minutes out by email, but we decided not to include the committee reports. Our thinking was there may be something in them that a person at the meeting might not want told. It was suggested that Marsha get oks from her members and then she can post her Ministry Team report on the same bulletin board. Any of the reports from the Council member's area may be posted there as will.

A newsletter was discussed. Hannah had done one before and would be willing to do once again, but said she had trouble getting reports from people. Then they were upset that their information was not included. It was decide that there would be no newsletter and we would try to communicate information via the bulletin board and word of mouth.

Committee Reports were sent out ahead of the meeting.
Reports and Updates given at the meeting:

Pastor's Report: Pastor John's report was included in the packet. He did ask us to continue praying, and maybe fasting one day a week as he is doing, about the upcoming church's visioning and human sexuality discussions. Set to begin Feb.6 following church.

Treasurer: Keith questioned the large deficit recorded of January income versus January expenses. Martha said there have been some unplanned expenses like the furnace needing to be worked on 2-3 times and the inspection of the elevator. Side note there, it did not pass inspection and after it is repaired it will need to be inspected again, another charge. Kevin added that there are some things in the budget that can be put off if necessary. He mentioned that the parsonage roof will not need redoing. The trees work to open up for getting more sun to the roof can be postponed. Repairs to the parsonage garage door would be nice to do for the tenants, but again, it can be postponed.

After the discussion above, Martha says she feels we are in a good spot with the finances.

Trustees: No meeting in January but they were told the current tenants of the parsonage were leaving. The trustees were scrambling to find new tenants but the current ones decided to stay. It seems there was some miscommunication and they thought that we were to get a new pastor and would need the parsonage.

UMM: Not currently meeting but did have an impromptu meeting after church one Sunday where they decided to send \$2000 from their funds to the relief efforts in Kentucky.

Ministry Team: Marsha highlighted that she, Jean Anderson and Pastor John will be going to Overlook every other Monday to lead Bible study for the residents of the 3rd floor. She also said that Kris Gerrard, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, is planning a movie viewing for February and is looking forward to starting up a men's Bible study again.

YABS are preparing a meal at Dismas House on a regular basis. Pastor told us only 2 can actually go in to cook, but others go and socialize outdoors with the guests.

Lay Leader: Kevin and Pastor are prepared for the church visioning and human sexuality discussions starting Feb. 6.

Right Start: The report from Marilyn Gerrard with statistics of how COVID is going was reviewed. Garnet suggested that the church maintain its current status for now and the group was in agreement. Pastor John thanked everyone for addressing the concerns of many of our church members by continuing as is and being able to continue worshipping in person.

SPRC: No meeting in January but are planning to meet in February

UMW: No meeting in December.

Lay Leadership Committee: No meeting

Website: Hannah says there is nothing new. She meant including the pictures of the Council members and a blurb about their committee's function. She is still waiting for them. Now instead of a blurb she would like a 30-60 second video of us telling what our committee does.

Garnet brought up that Robin McFee was at last month's meeting. She asked about if church members not on the Council are allowed to come. The answer is yes, every church member is welcome. They do not have a vote but may speak if the chair recognizes them. Keith mentioned that in our previous churches there were 'Members at Large' elected to the Council. It was decided that we should encourage church members to come. The best way to do that is to invite them specifically. John will ask his volunteer office assistants to call a couple every month to invite them.

Old Business:

Signage:

Kevin reported that he looked back at his notes from previous years when signage was discussed. A really nice non-electric sign was in the \$7,000 range and electric ones were twice that. He shared his screen with us and the sign was great but probably out our current budget.

Safe Sanctuary Policy:

Kevin asked if it would be prudent to have someone else look at it. Nancy said that all the churches have them and they are pretty much the same. John said he would send it to our DS, Rev. Megan Stowe, to review.

Kevin made a motion and it was seconded, to accept the policy with the typo fixed. This is with the understanding that after the DS sees it there is nothing she sees a problem with. It passed unanimously.

Leadership Visioning:

The leadership visioning meeting is still on track for March 26. It is expected that the congregational conversations will be only 5 weeks.

Building use calendar reminder:

When your committee meets in the church please be sure to record it and the length of time on the big calendar to the left of the office door.

New Business:

John brought up the rental policy of the parsonage. He suggested the lease go for 1 year starting and ending June 30, because pastors generally begin their appointments July 1. After discussion among us it was decided that the end of May might be a better date, and certainly no later than June 15, so there is time to get the parsonage ready for the next pastor. Pastor also mentioned that some pastors are actually allowed to move a couple of weeks earlier as he and Danielle did.

He would like the Trustees and the SPRC to write these policies together and bring them to the Council for approval.

There was also discussion if the parsonage rental was "paying for itself." Martha said she and Gary sat down together last year to crunch numbers and the rental does cover the costs. She is happy to revisit it again this year.

A motion was made by Martha to ask the Trustees and the SPRC to write a new lease agreement running yearly from no later than June 15 to June 15. Kevin seconded it and it passed unanimously.

John also mentioned that the workers in the Thrift Shop should be careful about conversations among themselves or with others while at the Thrift Shop. It seems that the initial reasoning for the renters to say they were leaving was that they thought we were getting a new pastor and didn't want to be caught with no place to go. It is expected that they may have overheard some conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 with a prayer written by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Young from the Ellsworth UMC and read by Nancy.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Luscombe

The next meeting is March 8, 2022 (Please note the change from 1st Tuesday to 2nd Tuesday for this month only.)