

Minutes for the Church Council – Bedington UMC
January 20, 2014

The following members present: Chair- Jerry Leishman, Pastor Rudisill, Pastor Bowers, Freeda Bowers, Steve Hose, Forest Webb, Dee LaFaber, Beth Sandy, Jan Adams, Nancy Deeds, Steve Adams, Veronica McDonald, Glenn Miller, Teresa Janniney, Mary Clemons, Kathleen Wright.

Jerry Leishman opened with prayer.

Introduction:

Each member of the committee introduced themselves and their roles on the committee, and their vision for the Church. Jerry Leishman explained the new format we will be using. We will no longer be reporting on our committee's instead if there is a concern that committee has one week prior to a meeting to inform Jerry and he will put it in the agenda with the allotted amount of time to discuss said concern, so our meetings can remain in a 90 minute time frame, if possible. Pastor John further explained since this Council will now take place of the Administrative Board and Council of Ministries this Council will be doing the Calendar events so hopefully we will not have events overlapping and we can have better planning of such events. An example of such events were our VBS, Sunday School Picnic, and Unity Committee's event last summer. We will also need to have a Representative of our Unity Committee here to help with continuity of events, Pastor John will see to having a Representative at the Council. Forest Webb will be a Representative not only for his committee but he will represent United Methodist Men and Food Pantry.

Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Minutes of prior meeting read, Pastor John motioned the minutes stand as written, 2nd by Steve Hose minutes approved. 2 issues that needed to be addressed from prior minutes. First the letters that needed to be notarized, have they been done. Pastor John has not gotten that accomplished. Pastor John will have them done by the end of the week and report back to the Chair of the Council. It was also asked if this money that is discussed in the letters is separate from the General Fund of the Church. It is kept separate and will be used for its intended purpose of needed repairs and improvements to the Church. Second is the Incentive Program for the Pastor. Jan Adams has reservations about this she feels it sets a bad precedent, she feels this is already something that is a part of the Pastor's job. She also feels if we want to raise his salary we should just raise it. Forest Webb agrees with Jan, because really it is everyone's responsibility to bring in people. Steve Adams said since we have seen an increase of approximately \$18,000.00 at the end of 2013, why not a bonus instead of a salary increase. Teresa Janniney asked how long do they have to attend to which the answer was they have to become members. Forest Webb suggested at this time why don't we table this and send it back to finance. Glenn Miller feels this is also sets a bad precedent. He feels that it isn't treating people the same. At this time Steve Hose explained why the Finance Committee went this direction. It was because SPRC asked for a 3% salary increase for the Pastor which was given, but at the same time his pension payment increased by the same percent, so therefore he wasn't really receiving an increase, his salary remained flat. The Finance Committee was reluctant to increase it anymore with how our current finances have been. And until our congregation can give more or grow because whether we like it or not this is a business and our membership has been flat and no motivation in the other above mentioned. It was felt that for only 1 year this incentive program could be tried. And Teresa Janniney pointed out it is a motivating factor in business. At this time Pastor John spoke and though he is very appreciative of Steve Hose and the Finance Committee and trying to be creative, responsible of the finances. Also how they recognize the needs of the staff not just him, and what a good job they are at doing that, because there was one year where our staff did receive a raise and he declined his, he knows they are trying to be generous to all. That being said Pastor John is having a problem with the word motivation because if that is the only reason he is getting people to Christ he doesn't feel like much of a Pastor. Pastor John stated his motivation has to be the Love of Christ and the Love of People not how much it gets him. Teresa Janniney stated again that maybe if finances were good at the end of the 2013 maybe a bonus could be given not only to Pastor John but the entire staff, for all their hard work and dedication. Pastor John further said the incentive idea did not come from him nor any other ideas and he would be fine with whatever way it goes. Jan Adams further stated that with our upcoming Lay Witness this fall and maybe some advertising will help, because we have so many new people in our area. Our Church dynamic is changing it is no longer large families we have to go out and reach out to our community, and with the above mentioned it is a good opportunity to start. Pastor John wants this to go back to our Finance Committee because he feels this could become a stumbling block to our Ministry which is introducing people to Jesus Christ. This will actually have to go back to SPRC then Finance, and Finance will report to the Council. They will recommend whether it will be all staff or just the Pastor. The next SPRC meeting is 2/10/2014. Pastor Bowers expressed at this time we should all be the marketing tools.

Concerns:

Jan Adams expressed a concern that was brought up to her by Bob DeFore the neighbor of the New Parsonage. The antenna is loose and he is concerned it might fall and do damage to his property. This needs to be addressed by our Trustee's, and tonight there wasn't a Representative. Therefore we must see to that in the future a Representative is in attendance. Pastor John will let the trustee's know and see to a Representative. Glenn Miller was asked if Youth Fest could be done again to bring the youth of the community. He will look into it. Glenn also stated that this means that the Church has to accept all Youth who come, no matter there appearance. Because there are some who feel they don't belong, but we as not only a Church but Christians must accept all. The fragile part is that when Youth don't feel wanted they may not come back, and we could loose that soul forever. As a Church if we don't demonstrate the love of Christ to all we fail our Church and our Country. Glenn understands it is a fine line to balance because he knows parents want Youth Group to be a safe haven. Beth Sandy also agreed no youth should be turned away. We all feel that and all agree we need to support Glenn and all Youth Leaders in our Church.

Other & Vision Statement:

Steve Hose per last meeting has researched and made a new website for the Church per approval of this committee. At this time it is not active. Included in the website is our Mission Statement, Sunday School Classes, Activities, Calendar of Events, Pastors Corner, a little spot about the Church, Map, Contact information for Pastor and Members. Jan Adams suggested a wedding corner and Mary Clemons suggested pictures of current events especially are youth events like rally day etc. It was also agreed we would be putting our minutes of the Council in there minus the financial statements. Also we would put the last sermon preached. We would also like to put a directory link. Steve has done this to hopefully help in the big issue of growth and communication. Steve would like to activate this website as soon as possible. The entire Council agreed that as soon as Steve could get the debit card from Lorelee Miller to pay the fees necessary to go ahead and activate it. Jerry Leishman asked if at this time we all agreed with the Mission Statement on the website and if so our we doing it or at least going in the right direction. At this time we had some trouble with the word membership of believers. So it was suggested by Pastor Rudisill that Council Members think of 3 things that should be in our Mission statement and give them to either him or Jerry . These should also include how we can reach out to the community better.

Revision of Tasks:

- Steve Hose needs to get with Lorelee Miller for debit card to activate Website.
- Steve and Finance Committee need to get recommendation from SPRC on bonuses or Salary increase
- Teresa Janinniney follow up with SPRC for either salary increase or bonuses
- Pastor John get letters notarized , Get representatives for Unity & Trustee Committee's

Calendar Additions:

Forest Webb feels that one of the Spaghetti Suppers will have to be either bumped up one week or back one week due to Good Friday.

Jr. Youth Dates –

- Meet dates – March 16th , May 4th , June 8th , September 14th , November 16th ,
- Event dates – April 13th - Egg Hunt, August 17th – Pool Party, October 19th – Harvest Party, December ?

Caroling

Closing:

Jerry Leishman stated at this time there are three ways he wants to lead and be held accountable to these ways of leadership. They are as follows:

1. A Servant Leadership
2. A Humble Leader
3. And Improvement

Jerry further stated he is here to serve the Lord to the best of his ability and will try to do so.

No more business Pastor John closed in Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen E. Wright
Recording Secretary