

MUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 20th, 2015

- I. Opening: a prayer was said and a pot luck lunch was served.
- II. Committee Reports
 - A. Trustees
 1. Painting of new hand rails on Fellowship Hall: The rails were added onto and painted though the old portion of the railings at the bottom has not been painted.
 2. Refinishing of Fellowship Hall floor: After a discussion that it has been at least 10-11 years since this was done and that the high traffic in the hall is causing the finish to be worn down to bare wood in places, it was decided that we will take estimates for refinishing. We had previously held off on this project due to the expense of the parsonage kitchen remodel. Craig Paschal will call Ben Wolcott and ask him to pursue estimates.
 3. Widen steps to front of Sanctuary: There was concern that it can be difficult to get a casket up the steps for funerals, especially if we raise the railings to ADA height as discussed in previous meetings. However, Craig and Phillip Walters felt that the width of steps and height of rails has not be a problem for caskets. It was discussed that the current rails still do not provide safety especially in winter. Phillip noted that the rails are not stable or level enough to add on to. He suggested that the railings be completely replaced with railings that are set into the ground alongside the walk way. All were in agreement. Amy Wise will talk with Connie Goodell and Steve Williams (the person who raised the Fellowship Hall rails) about this.
 4. Other: Jennifer Paschal would like the heating systems checked at the parsonage and church prior to winter. She will contact Comfort Air regarding this. She is also concerned that there is some outdoor siding coming loose at the back of the parsonage. She will contact Mr. Archuleta, who has replaced some of the siding previously.
 5. Craig reported that Gwen Hawkins is looking at replacing the sanctuary doors with fiberglass doors with windows at the top with the memorial fund money for her mom, Betty Alexander. Brad Goodell would etch a design into the glass windows that would complement the other glass designs around the church.
 6. Phillip has all the equipment to bring sound from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall and will install it as soon as his schedule allows.
 7. Holly Cruser pointed out that some light bulbs need to be replaced behind the stained glass at the front of the sanctuary. Phillip will do this today after the meeting.
 8. Jennifer noted that a portion of the gardens has not gotten water from the nearby sprinkler. Craig will check the sprinkler.
 - B. WON team (Worship, Outreach, Nuture) reported by Barb Cover
 1. Heavenly Fit Exercise and Tuesday Hiking: both have many participants.
 2. Cowboy Poetry Oct 1st, pay Linda Simmons if attending. Albuquerque Balloon Festival Oct 9-10th is fully booked.

3. Trip to Taos has been rescheduled to next fall.
4. Finishing pergola with pavers- Eric Howser and John (Anna Taft's husband) have been helping Connie Goodell with this lovely project to provide a peaceful place for reflection outdoors.
5. Christmas Food Baskets: Holly Cruser reports that she will be out of town when this occurs but can guide someone through the process of providing this service. It was agreed to provide 20 baskets again this year. Amy volunteered to head up this project.
6. Other: Craig reports that the high school and middle school youth groups have started up now with 7-10 and 20-30 kids respectively. The Tues am Bible study group, "Abiding in Christ" has just started. Centering Prayer is resuming Wed mornings. Craig encourages people to form new groups according to their interests. Lyndie Evans is stepping down as the Sunday School leader due to her increased job demands during the week. We are asked to pray for and seek out new leadership for Sunday School, for people to run the computer and sound during church, and for people to make meals for the youth groups.

C. Finance

1. Finance Report: no report given.
2. Other: Craig states that the next few sermons will be on generosity and we will follow that up with talking about pledge cards for tithing in a few weeks.

III. Pastor's Report: Craig has been looking into MUMC becoming a Reconciling Church. He believes it is wrong that UMC as an institution continues to discriminate against LGBT people. The UMC may split over this issue. He has spoken with the Revered Izzy Alvaran, an ordained Elder from the Philippines Annual Conference of the UMC. He is openly gay and an organizer for the Reconciling Ministries Network. He keeps his Eldership in the UMC by being celibate. Reverend Izzy would guide our church through the process of becoming a Reconciling Church which involves forming a committee to reach out to and educate the congregation, along with building relationships and listening, particularly to those who disagree. We would pay for his plane ticket to come and do a workshop with at least 25 people participating. Craig will invite the other churches in our Parish. It has been shown that becoming a Reconciling Church leads to growth. The Western Jurisdiction is already a Reconciling Jurisdiction and our district superintendent, Sione Tukutau, supports our exploration of becoming a Reconciling Church. The process takes 6-12 months to ensure that all voices are heard and once there is about 85% approval of the congregation, the church puts forth a public statement about being a Reconciling Church. Those present at the meeting were in general agreement to move forward with this, but would like to make sure that Reverend Izzy can do the workshop when our summer congregation is present so as not to make them feel like they did not have a voice in this.

IV. New Business

- A. Craig reports that Anna Taft will speak Sunday 9-27-15 about the Women's Literacy Program in Mali that she has asked us to support. The following Sunday, 10-4-15 a special offering will be taken and supplemented by church funds with the goal of \$2600 total to support the program in one town in Mali.

- B. Amy asked that we provide one Fellowship session after church at the Valley Inn Nursing Home so that Marsha Moss, who is a resident there and is no longer able to attend church due to her health, will be able to join us. It was agreed that we will do this on Sunday 10-11-15. Amy will set things up with the nursing home to provide a space for us to do this.
- V. Old Business: Mary Ann Ott asked that we consider again doing a combined service every time there is a 5th Sunday in the month at 10:00 am followed by a pot luck to encourage fellowship between the first and second service attendees. All agreed and the first combined service will be held on 11-29-15.
- VI. Date of next meeting: 11-8-15 at 12:15 pm.
- VII. Closing: Silvia Fleitz closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes submitted by Silvia Fleitz