

**Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2015**

Bob Burr called the meeting to order. Pastor Brian opened with devotions and prayer.

Pastor Brian distributed an overview of The Church Council from a denominational perspective as well as a sheet describing our vital signs – the focus of our promises for 2015. A year ago, Bishop Carter challenged pastors to be reading a book a month on leadership, so Pastor Brian made available books from his library on this subject for Council members to peruse. Also for distribution was a paper entitled Seasons of Leadership; specifically, Exodus 17:5-9. Pastor stressed the importance of our face-to-face encounter with God before we do anything else. People will then grow with you as you grow. When people ask questions, they are looking for information but also looking for inspiration. They ultimately need an invitation. As a leader, you are sometimes going to have to walk in front of people, wean and counsel. For many people, that is a shift. The necessity begins for you to do that which you are called to do. There is a value in paying attention to what people are sharing, even if it is hard to hear. The value is hearing it, addressing it and then moving forward. We have got to move ministries forward. Every new level brings a brand new devil. We need to be for one another as we bring people in. Whatever phase we are in, stay with God – God first always.

The minutes from the February 2, 2015 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Bob Burr spoke about our Council which was also discussed at February's meeting. After receiving Pastor Brian's e-mail with an attachment entitled "The Church Council," he realized that the matters that were mentioned in the attachment are, for the most part, what we have been doing. He was very pleased that we were able to recognize the necessity as set forth by The Church Council report as dictated by the conference.

Having been concerned about reaching our snowbirds, Bob Burr went down to the Cultural Center and learned that we could put a notice on their bulletin board, thus addressing this matter.

Salty Service – Chris Burr

. There have been some changes made to the outreach program at Trinity United Methodist: (1) The lunch program was changed from Friday to Wednesday to make it easier for Pastor Ed Horne to be present. (2) Their ministry leader, Donna McGowan, has resigned. A new director will be in place shortly. In the interim, Carol and Hugo Berntsson will fill in. They also help with our WNO. (3) PCUMC will continue to provide cooked meals for the Trinity program. However, Trinity can no longer give us meat and bulk items to supplement the lunches we make for them. It is against the Harry Chapin

Food Bank rules. Jim Eugenius is working miracles with the food preparation, but some increased costs are expected. (4) Trinity's kitchen is not certified as a commercial kitchen. They may only use their Chapin Food Bank items in their own food bank. This is difficult since many using their food bank are homeless and receiving a can of green beans for 50 servings is not helpful.

- . During the month of January 2015, Trinity provided food to 445 households.
- . Glen and Sherry White flew to the Dominican Republic to survey and make preparations for the youth mission trip. The Praise Team is interested in going. Judy Brown has a table set up next to the Welcome Center selling "That's My Pan" cookware as a fundraiser for the mission trip. PCUMC receives 10% back from sales. Donations are welcome.
- . Lunch and Learn: (1) March 19th – Alzheimer's and dementia; (2) March 24th – Memory testing mobile unit. Appointments required. (3) March 18th – blood mobile.
- . Emergency Assistance Clearing House (EACH) – Nancy presented information regarding our non-profit expo event to be held at the fairgrounds on October 24th.

Discipleship – Linda Anderson

- . We have six adult Sunday School classes and three classes are using the same materials, which means that there are only four different offerings for adults at 9:30 a.m. A short discussion on this subject decided this was not a problem.
- . Because we are publicizing study topics for adult classes on Sunday mornings and not using names of Sunday School classes, Doris Hixson questioned if we've talked to the bulk of people attending Sunday School classes because she feels most people attend Sunday School for the fellowship and a sense of belonging. Bob Burr suggested Doris and Linda get together to try to come up with a resolution. This matter will be further discussed at our April Council Meeting.

Hospitality – Marcie Marshall

- . Two new ladies have agreed to be greeters at the 8:00 a.m. service – Diane Geiss and Lorraine Vida.
- . A lunch will be prepared on Tuesday for the District Leadership Council.

Staff-Parish – Tom Marshall

The new budget was discussed as well as employee healthcare and a personnel matter.

Finance/Treasurer – Fred Wagner

We have a revised and balanced budget for 2015, thanks to everyone involved. Special kudos to Carol Hansen and Nancy Bossardet for their herculean effort. Everything is totally transparent in this year's budget. Council then approved the revised 2015 budget of \$843,419.15.

Trustees – Mike Sniecinski

- . 610 chairs have arrived; remainder by month end.
- . Fellowship Hall stage area painting is complete.

- . The renovation project has begun; Chuck Kinter will be leading it as project manager.

Worship – Karen Wenck

- . Attendance at the Ash Wednesday service was 170 people.
- . The chancel choir will present a drama, including choral anthems, on Palm Sunday.
- . During Holy Week there will be a lunch and Bible study on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. All are invited.
- . The Maundy Thursday service will include stripping the altar.
- . Easter Sunrise Service @6:30 a.m. will be in New Beginnings Park in partnership with St. James. Sean and his group will provide the music. St. James' Pastor will give the message. The United Methodist Men will be serving breakfast that morning.
- . Pastor Earl Parker is working with the ushers to develop a notebook that will include scheduling, where items are located and what is expected. We are having more success with people signing the attendance pads since the ushers are passing them out.
- . Sean reported that the Contemporary Service is going well. He, along with First Alliance Church, will be trying out a Sunday evening service twice a month. This service will include music and scripture, but no sermon.
- . A video camera was donated to PCUMC and we are considering videotaping our services and putting them on the website.
- . Pastor Earl is working with Ellen to provide pictures of new members, along with their addresses and telephone numbers. These will be made available so people can update their directory.

Men's Ministry – Tom Marshall for Sid White/Rick McCullough

- . Our Valentine Dinner/Dance was attended by 200 people. The youth were servers for this event. David deSilva provided the music. Loss on the dinner was an all-time low of \$42.
- . Sixteen people were in attendance at the breakfast meeting this morning. Dale Phillips of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office spoke on the topic of elder abuse.

Women's Ministry – Pastor Brian for Pat Douglas

Dustin James will be coordinating the group going to the Beth Moore event in Tampa on June 12-13. Sign-up information will be forthcoming.

Youth Representative – Paul Kisner

- . The youth were servers for the UMM Valentine's Day Dinner on February 13th, and were able to raise money for future endeavors. On February 22nd, the youth served as ushers and greeters for the 11 a.m. service. There was also a slide show shown at all three services for camp.
- . The youth will celebrate Spring Break with a trip to Mike Greenwell's Family Fun Park in Cape Coral on March 11th, and we will have a service day at the church on Saturday, March 14th. Camp and mission trip registration is ongoing this month as we prepare for the summer.

- . Family ministry will be going bowling after church on March 22nd. Sign-up is in the lobby.

Children's Ministry – Dawn Kisner

- . On March 28th, the Un-Egg Hunt will be held. All are encouraged to help with this church-wide Easter outreach event.
- . G.E.M.S. has started back up and is still recruiting girls.
- . Working with preschool Chapel and Clap, Tap, & Jingle to bring more parents to church. Story time and singing songs at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
- . All kinds of fun Easter preparations for children in all areas.
- . Attending Real Ideas and Thrive Conferences for workshops to help with new ideas and education in children and youth ministry.

Children's Weekday Ministry Representative – Dawn Kisner

- . Initial registration event held on February 5th. We are thankful that classes are filling up. We are also offering a summer program – Camp Adventure.
- . Spring Break is March 9-13.
- . Our Book Fair (ending at the Un-Egg Hunt) is March 23-28. That week will also include Literacy and Lunch, inviting parents to come have lunch with their child on their designated day and then take them to the Book Fair. We thought it might be fun for some of the church members to be our “readers.”

Other Business

Terry Hixson mentioned that the day after the State Legislature passed the gay marriage act Pastor Brian received a phone call from someone asking him to perform a marriage for a gay couple. Terry feels we should come up with a general consensus of the church and formulate an answer that the Pastor can give in these situations. Bob Burr feels we should get direction from Bishop Carter first before we make any decisions regarding this matter. Pastor Brian stated that the Bishop has given several talks on this subject. His statement was that clergy who are asked to participate cannot participate in a service of vows and churches cannot host marriage ceremonies of same sex couples on their property. The Bishop did say, however, that if the clergy wanted to say a prayer at a service or give a homily at a service or be in attendance at a service, that could be done.

Closing

Terry Hixson closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes submitted by Joan Sniecinski, Secretary