

**Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
Monday, January 7, 2013**

Terry Hixson opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

The minutes from the December 3, 2012 meeting were approved with one correction: Under Discipleship, Oleson should be added to Ann Van Hoose's name so that it now reads Ann Van Hoose-Oleson.

Old Business – None

Council Reports

Salty Service – Mike Hald

No meeting was held in December. The next meeting is January 21st. WNO to be evaluated next month.

Generosity – No report given.

Discipleship – Doris Hixson

- . The Cancer Support group will have its first meeting on January 8th at 6:00 p.m.
- . The Grief Share group led by Ann Van Hoose-Oleson will begin in February. Ann emphasized that each session will stand on its own, and any missed days can be made up at a later date.

Hospitality – Marcie Marshall

No scheduled meeting yet. A meeting is planned with Pastor Brian this month.

Staff-Parish – Tom Marshall

No meeting in December.

Finance/Treasurer – Frank Hansen

Nancy Bosserdet indicated that tithes and offerings for December amounted to \$126,000 resulting in a surplus of over \$20,000 for the year. This does not include investment income. PCUMC is looking forward to a really great year.

Trustees

No chairperson has been chosen yet.

Worship – June Richards for Karen Wenck

- . Kudos to everyone responsible for the beautiful Christmas decorations, especially the eight new banners and large Chrismons. The Advent messages and music were outstanding.
- . Pastor Brian indicated that the lighting of the Advent wreath this year was done by some long-time church members, and families going through transition, to remind them that they are all part of our church family.

. The after-Christmas attendance at our 11:00 a.m. service was up significantly, including first-time visitors. Several will be joining PCUMC in the near future. We are particularly pleased about the impact our youth and children's programs are having on bringing new members into our church.

Men's Ministry – Joe Wilcek

. On January 5th, 170 people attended the pancake breakfast.

. The UMM held its first breakfast meeting of the new year on January 7th.

. The Valentine dinner/dance will be held on February 8th. Tickets will be available soon.

Women's Ministry – No report given.

Youth Representative – Paul Kisner

. The youth ministry held its annual Christmas party and an end-of-the-year lock-in during December. Both events were well attended.

. In December, \$79 was collected for World Vision which was donated to the widows and orphans fund and to the purchase of three mosquito nets. An additional \$75 was collected for Trinity UMC to go toward the Neighbor to Neighbor ministry.

. In January, the youth will be starting a new series dealing with sin and temptation called "How Not to Get Caught."

. The family ministry Sunday School class is currently doing a DVD study on the life of Joshua, and the youth Sunday School class just started the Grapple junior high curriculum from Group Publishing.

. Summer camp registration will begin soon. Camp is scheduled the week of July 15-20.

Port Representative – Dawn Kisner

. "Acts of Faith" Flags and Puppets began meeting every other Sunday for lunch and practice after the 11:00 a.m. service. The group performed before the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Dec. 30th and received a great response from the congregation.

. Our "PBnJ's" on WNO are beginning a new program entitled "Faith Weaver Friends." This is similar to a club where children participate in centers such as Bible study, small groups, missions, crafts and games. At the end of each quarter, they receive key chain awards for service and completion.

. The children's Christmas program, consisting of 27 children, did a great job with "Sing to the King."

. Working on the Easter outreach with the UMM. We hope to make a more intentional effort of connecting and inviting the community during the church-wide event.

CMW Representative – Barbara Pennington

. During December, preparations were made for gifts for the parents, ornaments for the tree, and learning all about why we celebrate the season. It was highlighted by the Happy Birthday Jesus parties where children and their parents traveled from station to station playing party games and having fun.

- . The Salvation Army Angel Tree was a success; 35 local families were helped as well as 14 families within our church.
- . The children have returned from their Christmas break and will be assessed during January. The assessment process has changed because of the new VPK standards; however, there will still be parent/teacher conferences in February and assessments three times during the school year.

Lay Leadership – Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian requested that we pray about fulfilling the roles of leadership in our church. He particularly pointed out the open positions on our SPR and Trustees committees. Once the committees are completed, plans will be made to introduce the leaders to our congregation during the worship services. Hopefully, this can be done during the month of February.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian emphasized the need to increase our church attendance which will increase our level of giving. He indicated that 80% of people visit a church because someone invited them or offered to take them to church. Our church bus is a prime asset for getting people to come. The heart and soul of every church is a welcoming atmosphere. We need to create some easy invites which can be used by our congregation. Katherine should be used as a resource. Pastor Brian is excited about the strides we have made to get people to church.

Other Business – Frank Hansen

- . At tonight's Finance meeting, Bob Burr presented his procedure on donor gifts and will bring it to the next Council meeting. A discussion was held concerning outreach efforts and how to measure them. It was suggested that as part of the approval for any monies that the leader of the requesting group try to project what the results of that outreach will be. Joe Wilcek indicated that an "after-action report" could also be provided.

It was unanimously agreed that we need to have more leaders and church members at our events and more communication with people who attend these events. Terry Hixson mentioned that perhaps the pastoral team could meet and pray with people then and there.

When our children have their various programs, we as a church should show support and bear witness.

Frank Hansen will draft a form to use to project, measure, and evaluate an outreach effort and present it at our next Council meeting.

- . Carol Hansen mentioned the South West District Local Church Leadership Training Events scheduled for January 26th and February 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All committee members are encouraged to attend. Registration can be done on-line.

Closing

Pastor Brian closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes submitted by Joan Sniecinski, Secretary