

**Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2014**

Bob Burr called the meeting to order. Terry Hixson gave devotions and prayer.

Pastor Brian reminded us that as we head into the Lenten season we are supposed to do something. Eighty-four percent of the people who come to church come because someone invited them. Just make the invitation and let Christ do the “in between” work. There are two things on which to focus: right and left – the empty seat on the right and the empty seat on the left.

Joanne Carter presented a Synergy Plan for New Ministry entitled Widows’ Might. Its purpose is to show love, comfort and support to those women who have lost their husbands. At the present time there are eight members between the ages of 60 and 88. New people will be enlisted to join the group for monthly meetings at the church. One of its goals is to create a network of services and recommended providers specific to widows. It is self-supporting. Council voted on the Plan and it was approved.

The minutes from the February 3, 2014 meeting were approved.

Salty Service – Chris Burr

- . WNO: Will evaluate costs at the end of March. Expenses are exceeding revenue.
- . Habitat for Humanity: A \$4200 check was sent to Habitat; however, we still need to make up a deficit of \$1300. Until this deficit is made up, we won’t enter into another agreement with Habitat for Humanity. We can also send in a donation later in the year if finances permit.
- . Health Ministries: Bloodmobile will be here on March 19th during WNO between 3:30 and 8:30 PM. The monthly Lunch & Learn programs continue.
- . Kairos: We need a representative to attend to represent Kairos. We support Kairos and feel it is fair that they attend our meetings to keep us up-to-date with their plans and that they follow the bulletin and newsletter publication requirements. Rick McCullough indicated that Kairos has a clothing drive now and Don Nevins is the collector of the clothing.

Discipleship – Linda Anderson

Linda indicated that she and Frank Hansen have been working on the Intentional Discipleship materials which were then inventoried and presented to Pastor Brian in a notebook for his perusal and guidance in terms of what would be the most appropriate things for use in studies.

Hospitality – Marcie Marshall

- . All greeters, Welcome Center volunteers, bereavement volunteers and Dottie and Sid White (coordinators of our Sunday morning fellowship) are doing a great job.

- . Barb Hald needs help with the “Un-Egg-Hunt”; specifically, volunteers to sign up the children, lots of red shirts around to help or greet all that attend, and help serving food.

Staff-Parish – Tom Marshall

SPR had staff presentations from Eileen West and Barb Hald.

Finance/Treasurer – Fred Wagner

- . Nancy Bosserdet indicated that we are looking forward to a great March and April. Overall, we are lagging a little behind and need an additional \$12,000 to bring us even.
- . Fred indicated that receipts from last Sunday were substantially up which is a good sign. He is excited about where we are going as a church. He met with several of the staff who are so dedicated and incredible and told such wonderful success stories. Sometime in the future he would like the congregation to know where the money is going and all the good it is doing, for example: WNO, Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, which are supported through our reserve funds. Hopefully, we will soon not have to draw on these funds in the future. Our staff is so good with budget and expenses. People will want to reach in their pockets for additional giving.
- . Joe Wilcek will head an ad hoc committee to pursue alternate forms of income. People will be invited to attend a brown bag luncheon every Tuesday to brainstorm what is possible. A review of all budgets and programs is taking place as well as reaching out to the new membership class for ideas and suggestions.
- . At its recent meeting, Finance voted to accept debit and credit cards as a way to give in the future. Giving on-line is also available. A motion was then made to accept debit and credit cards which was approved by Council. Information will be available in the church pews for future giving.

Trustees – Mike Sniecinski

- . Chuck Kinter gave an update on the renovation project and an outline of the capital campaign program using the cottage meeting idea which is going into effect this month.
- . Work on the Port kitchen project is finished. This includes a triple sink and a separate hand washing sink.

Worship (No report)

Men’s Ministry – Rick McCullough

- . The men had a Valentine event on February 14th and there were 191 paying persons. For the first time in ten years, income matched the expenses.
- . There were 154 people who attended the pancake breakfast on March 1st. The grill worked perfectly.
- . The men are looking forward to helping Barb Hald on April 12th.
- . The men working on March 1st were encouraged to sign up for the upcoming cottage meetings.
- . Collections of furniture are being made for the sale in November. Storage facilities are available. The furniture is often given to those in need during the year when requests are made to our church.

Youth Representative – Paul Kisner

- . The youth assisted the UMM with their Valentine’s Dinner on February 14th. The youth raised over \$600 to use on future youth ministry activities. Registration is currently ongoing for summer camp which will take place July 14-19.
- . This weekend a group of youth will be going to Riverside camp for the SW District Spring Retreat. This will be the kickoff for Spring Break. Other activities will include a youth work day at the church on March 11 and Miniature Golf on March 12. On March 30th, the youth will be assisting in our morning worship services for Youth Sunday.

Children’s Representative – Paul Kisner for Dawn Kisner

- . Working on Easter – Kid’s Worship (CSI Jerusalem) and “The Un-Egg Hunt”, where children collect eggs at stations and games.
- . “Acts of Faith” – practicing flags and puppets for the Easter outreach.

CWM Representative – Barbara Pennington

- . Last month ended with a fun and fantastic weekend in Leesburg where our staff gave some wonderful workshops for teachers from all over the state. They also attended some magnificent workshops and were given a chance to have some team building and some spirit building interwoven into the weekend.
- . Registration began today for the 2014-2015 school year. Our 3’s classes will be full. This might entail switching out a four-year-old classroom to accommodate the overflow.
- . March is a fun-filled month. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday which entails getting a visit from the Cat in the Hat and crazy dressing. “Mr. Ray” at Domino’s Pizza will tell us how pizza was first made and then we’ll have a taste test. This month we will get to visit with our wolf friend Sacajawea again and spring break is next week.

Lay Leadership

Pastor Brian met with three candidates and all three will be placed in leadership positions. Another applicant will be rescheduled due to his unavailability at this time.

Other Business

- . Nancy Bosserdet mentioned the resurgence of women’s ministries and perhaps reinstating women’s circle groups but in a different format.
- . Bob Burr was served with a lawsuit on behalf of the church in regard to Ed Edwards’ estate. He will be meeting with the lawyer representing the estate and will keep Council posted.

Closing

Pastor Brian gave the benediction.

Minutes submitted by Joan Sniecinski, Secretary

