

**Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2015**

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

The minutes from the September 14, 2015 were approved after the first sentence under Discipleship was corrected to read: Terry Hixson reiterated that three adult Sunday School classes were doing International Studies and the Sowers class was studying "The Call."

Salty Service – Chris Burr

- . The bathroom that our students worked on while in the Dominican Republic is now completed.
- . The next mission trip will be December 26, 2016 – January 3, 2017. This timeframe will allow for much needed planning and fundraising. The destination is Haiti and students will be working with medical clinics. It is hoped that fifteen students will participate. Church Council approved supporting the youth in this endeavor.
- . No flu shots will be given at the church this year as drugstores and supermarkets are fulfilling this service. The Blood Mobile will be at the church on November 1 between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The topic for November's Lunch and Learn will be "strokes." Dr. Alex Kucewicz will be the speaker.
- . Volunteers and baked goods are needed for our Non-Profit Fall Extravaganza.
- . Jonathan Carlson will report on November 15 regarding the Persecuted Church. New on this year's list are Mexico, Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Discipleship – Linda Anderson

Linda reported that her music activities are now taking her out of town many weekends and she felt she was unable to do an adequate job as contact for the Sunday School classes and educational activities. Her plans are to resign this December. Bob Burr thanked Linda for her service and requested Council to help with finding a replacement for her.

Hospitality – Marcie Marshall

- . A light lunch was served after the service for Joe Ryan last Friday.
- . Help will be given at the Fall Extravaganza and also during the Christmas holidays.

Staff-Parish – Tom Marshall

- . The compensation package for Pastor Brian has been completed; now working on evaluations.
- . Barbara Hald has been promoted to Student Ministry Director.

Finance/Treasurer – Tom Wenck

- . Fred Wagner indicated that we did pretty well during the summer until August when we started to fall behind in giving. The good news was that every area either met or was below budget and we did not have to use another source to bring in extra money.
- . Nancy Bosserdet had expressed to Fred that the Extravaganza is fast approaching and stressed the importance that help is still needed.
- . Pastor Brian had spoken about the renovation project which is on schedule at this point. We saved approximately \$60,000; however, some of the savings was put into completing the work done in the Education wing, etc. by the contractor at a much cheaper price. We will definitely be back in our new sanctuary by Christmas.

Evangelism – Fred Wagner

- . Rev. Parker is continuing to do the membership classes, and the next one will be held on October 13th. Fred and Linda have set up a procedure where the Willmeths will be picking up information and getting cards out to new visitors every week and then reporting back to them. The plan is to get new members more involved in the church and finding the “perfect fit” for them.
- . The CCIS data system is lacking in several reporting areas; e.g., providing good feedback and simple reporting of how long the visitors have been coming. Carol Hansen is investigating new software options which may better meet our needs. Fred suggests that we try to get a new system in the future. In order to help us bring people in and assimilate folks in a meaningful way, we need to be able to track better.

Trustees – Mike Sniecinski

- . Replacement signs for south drive have been installed.
- . The lounge and music office AC unit has been replaced.
- . LED lights were installed in the lobby.
- . A scent-free zone will be set up in the sanctuary. This precipitated a discussion by Council and it was determined that if anyone had a better suggestion, to let Mike know and he will bring it before the Trustees at their next meeting.
- . A cremation/ashes plot will be installed in New Beginnings Park.

Worship – Tom Wenck for Karen Wenck

- . Jews for Jesus will present “Christ in the Passover” on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. This is a model Seder and is approximately an hour and a half service.
- . Our first service will commence at 7:55 a.m. beginning on November 1, 2015 to help ensure completion by 9:00 a.m.
- . Pastor Brian asked for committee candidate suggestions for the 2016-2018 period.
- . We have six new acolytes, with three retiring.
- . The Worship Committee budget for 2016 will remain the same at \$8500.

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

Eighteen people attended this morning’s meeting at Perkins. Paul Smith was the speaker and the topic was the Walk to Emmaus.

Women's Ministry

Chris Burr indicated that while Pat Douglas was listed as chairperson of this committee, she was more interested in the socialization aspect and that Sandy Segur would be a good fit as chairperson since she is already a member of this committee. It was determined that this matter should be brought before the Lay Leadership Committee for finalization.

Port Ministries (children & youth) Representative – Barbara Hald

- . Working with Children's Weekday Ministry on Christmas program
- . Overseeing the youth and trying to get volunteers in all areas.
- . One-Room Sunday School is going well; training new leaders in this area. Veronica Campbell and Dottie White taught this past Sunday.
- . Deb Valler has offered to help organize the acolytes before the 11:00 a.m. service.
- . We received an award from "Shoes for Kids" for collecting over 100 pairs of shoes. Our picture was in the paper for this accomplishment.
- . Working with Nancy Bossardet on Non-Profit Extravaganza.

Other Business

- . Doris Hixson spoke about a woman and her son who came into the church, sat down, and was told by an individual to move because that was her seat. Because she was a member and hadn't been to church in awhile, she understood, moved and wasn't offended, but thought the leadership would like to know. While a difficult situation, if/when it happens again, perhaps someone could handle the matter by suggesting the offended person sit by him or her. In this particular case, the woman was relieved that Doris had come and did just that. We need to be constantly aware of situations such as this one to dispel any ill feelings.
- . Carol Hansen stated that within two weeks our church bulletin will contain an announcement regarding this year's charge conference. It will be held on Sunday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m. at Christ UMC in Lehigh Acres. If enough people plan to attend, we will use one of our buses.
Fred Wagner indicated the need for more younger people to be involved with our church. This is happening at our 9:30 a.m. contemporary service. As we move forward with our evangelism, we need ideas how we can best serve new members, young and old.
- . Terry Hixson indicated that, due to retirement of many committee members, we need to ask qualified people to pray about filling these positions and then filling out the necessary paperwork so that Lay Leadership can talk to them about finding the right spot for them.

Terry Hixson closed the meeting with prayers for longtime church members Karen Wenck and Linda Layman who are both having serious surgeries this week.

Minutes submitted by Joan Sniecinski, Secretary