

Christ United Methodist Church  
Council Minutes  
January 14, 2025

Present via Zoom were: Nick Fetchina, Judi Austin, Scott Gillespie, Cindy Schrader, Jack Dwiggins, Brian Hall, Hollie Kessler, Carol Yarian, Emily Mayer, Jake Mayer and Pastor Kurt Freeman.

Committee shared where they have seen God at work and Pastor Kurt opened in prayer. Minutes from the November meeting were approved as submitted.

Jack Dwiggins reported that there is nothing new at this time for the Discipleship report.

Judi Austin reported for Staff Parish. The congregation donated just over \$12,000 for the staff Love Gift which is awesome. This is being distributed among staff and they are very appreciative of this generosity.

Carol Yarian reported for the areas she oversees.

- Young Women's Bible Study started up again and had 12 people
- Overall attendance down a little since Christmas
- Congregation was very generous for Turkey Time; we helped 48 families at 3 schools
- Jubilee helped 20 families with 52 children with Christmas
- Emily and Carol doing a hot chocolate bar in Aroma in Feb
- CareGiver Support Group Ministry is evaluating how they will move forward-not many people coming to their meetings.
- IU Health Care Ministry is still going. We are struggling a bit to connect with people but still working on it. We are still receiving a \$1000/month grant for participating in this program.

Nick Fetchina reported for Finance. He was pleased to report that the church finished the year "in the black" by \$69,000 and all areas were under budget in expenses for 2024. We had some annual and year-end gifts, so our general account has a healthy balance to start the year.

In the absence of a Trustee present, Hollie reported that a new furnace is being installed 1/15/24 for one of the units in the Education Wing and Koorsen is replacing an emergency light in the sanctuary that had stopped working.

Brian Hall reported for Early Learning. Everything is going smoothly. Summer Camp registration will open in February and Half-Day Preschool registration will open in March. Question was asked about Junior Counselor program for Summer Camp. Brian reported that is not something the board had discussed, but he will email Kenzie and find out if this is something they are considering for this year.

Emily Mayer reported for Children's Ministry. The Family Christmas Eve service went well. The Parent's Night Out event in December had 20 children participate and was a success. Carol and Emily are planning a Hot Chocolate Bar for Aroma in Feb. and looking at Lenten Devotionals for families. The Children's Ministry is making a change to their Sunday Schedule. Children will now stay in the service the first Sunday of each month for communion and will go to class on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (which

had previously been Sundays that the kids would stay in service). Also looking at ways to get more “mature” members to be involved with the kids by having them help some during the children’s Sunday classes. Also looking at opening a class between services for the kids.

Jake Mayer reported for Youth, Tech and Worship. Youth are participating in a collaborative group with other area UMC’s which is going well. Youth small groups are also being formed, each with a particular focus. Jake apologized for not putting enough effort into this last year but is really planning to get things going with youth this year. Look for information in the Worship Guide in the coming weeks with all the youth happenings and information.

For worship, the band is doing well, they are a flexible group and always willing to do whatever is needed. The Worship Planning Team is working on Easter and planning to do an “opposite Sunday” where the band will play at 1<sup>st</sup> service and the choir will sing at 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Also planning some Spirit Sundays following Easter. For Tech, Jake and Terra are looking at a texting plan for the church. There are many options so are just starting to explore the possibilities while looking at costs, etc.

Cindy Schrader is our new Lay Leader with Janette Kauffman. She and Janette met with Kurt today to start making some plans for the coming year.

Pastor Kurt reported that starting in July we will have new districts, and we will be a part of the West Central Plains District. We will also have a new superintendent, yet to be named. Joan Banning has retired as Church Council secretary so we will need a new one; if you have any ideas, please let Pastor Kurt know. This year he hopes to work on relationships/connections within our congregation as the focus. Discussed first service and how to increase attendance as it seems to be diminishing some. Discussed possible issues of timing, music, etc. but the group really feels like there is simply a decreased demand in general for more traditional services and the best way to increase attendance is by personal invitations and developing relationships.

Pastor Kurt closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hollie Kessler