

Christ United Methodist Church
Council Minutes
March 11, 2025

Present: Scott Gillespie, Nick Fetchina, Hollie Kessler, Dana Blanchard, Emily and Jake Mayer, Bruce Mowery, Dave and Jo Stroud, Becky Crabb, Carol Yarian, Andrew and Becky Daigle, Judi Austin, Kurt Freeman.

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

Judi Austin and Pastor Kurt reported for Staff Parish. During the last two months, SPRC has spent a lot of time researching and discussing a new custodial plan. We are ending our contact with The Maintenance Team as of March 31 and beginning April 1, Terra Tilley and Theresa Bell will take over. This will result in \$18,000 savings from what we are currently paying (this savings will benefit EL). Kurt apologizes that he missed connecting with the Trustees regarding this custodial shift.

Carol Yarian reported for the areas she oversees.

- Bruce started his Lenten Bible Study this weekend (meeting in Rooms 1&2 which have now been set up as classroom space and the dividing wall can be closed if 2 smaller rooms are needed).
- Attendance is about the same; first service has been a bit lower. Have had some new families attending
- Hot Chocolate Bar was a huge success
- Kids Klost continues to be busy; 45 people served this week
- Ash Wed. soup and bread dinner served 75+ people and 115 people attended the service which was great. Pastor Bruce did a very nice job!
- Purdue Baseball and Tailgate May 16th
- Fall Festival at Wea Creek Orchard is Sept. 25th
- Care Giver Support Group still meeting
- IU Health program is still going; have had 3 referrals in the last few weeks
- Prayer team doing a great job

Andrew Daigle presented a request for the Kairos Ministry to become a ministry of Christ UMC. Attached is the form he filled out with information about the Kairos prison ministry. Kurt presented to the council that we need to discern what the difference is between a ministry of our church and a ministry people in our church participate in. There was much discussion about what this means. Some things shared that would be expected if it were a ministry of Christ UMC:

- Church Building being available for meetings
- Expectation of support and prayer
- Prayer/recognition during services
- Expectation that monetary requests can be made (not necessarily in the budget)
- Provide food for the ministry
- Report about what happens in the ministry (while protecting confidentiality)

Other questions/comments/discussion:

- Should we have a wider conversation with the congregation to find out how they feel about this ministry and the level of involvement we should have?
- We don't want to spread ourselves too thin-we can't do everything and do it all well. We don't have the people/resources to do every ministry
- Make sure we are staying focused on our mission
- A few new ministries have started/stopped recently as we did not take the time to ask all these questions and make the best plan, so we want to avoid that as we move forward.

Pastor Kurt suggests that we continue this discussion at the May meeting and in the meantime do these things:

1. Pray about “what does it look like for a ministry to be a ministry of the church instead of just a ministry some of our people do and we support those people?”
2. Talk with people about their thought regarding Kairos and being a ministry.

Nick Fetchina reported for Finance. We were in the black for February. The giving was down some but we were under budget in expenses. Narthex repairs are being paid for from PM Fundy (Maintenance Fund) and from savings in our Stifel account.

Pastor Kurt reported that our Lay Leaders, Janette Kauffman and Cindy Schrader met today and are working on ways to connect people in the congregation as well as increase our capacity for us to receive new people. Planning a June 8th church picnic and looking at planning prayer walks.

In the absence of a Trustee present, Kurt reported that a spring clean-up day is being planned for Saturday, April 12th from 9-noon.

Dana Blanchard reported for Early Learning. Things are going smoothly; half day preschool registration has started. The reduction in custodial costs will definitely help the budget.

Emily Mayer reported for Children’s Ministry. At the Family Ministry meeting, it was reported that some people find it distracting to have kids help with communion and they say communion loses its meaning for them. The goal is to make it a good experience for everyone, so worship planning and the family ministry team are looking at ways to keep kids involved and at the same time, make it a sacred time for those that feel distracted. Children’s Ministry will be providing Easter Bags for congregation members to take and “egg” someone. Each bag will have 24 pre-filled eggs as well as a door hanger with our church info so families can hide the eggs at a neighbor or friend’s house and share our Easter service info with them. Thought this would be a fun way to “carry Christ into the Community.” Children will not be having a dance group for Easter but hoping to do another one at Back to School time. Planning an end of school year skating party like we did last year and already working on VBS which will be June 23-27.

Jake Mayer reported for Youth, Tech and Worship. Youth Group with other churches is going well. Still having a hard time scheduling small groups of youth within our church. Looking at doing a once a month meeting as the collaborative youth group, once a month meeting for small groups and once a month meeting as a Christ UMC youth group-this could possibly be during the Sunday School hour. Sunday Night Round-Up has officially ended and we are looking at our ideas. Would like to get something started where we record videos of our church people telling their stories and the stories of Christ UMC. Also looking at some texting options so we have the capability for mass texting from the church.

Pastor Kurt reported that he met with the Renewal Grant team to begin making plans to apply for the grant in 2026 for 2027. Will be taking the month of July off this year for renewal (Pastor Bruce and John Randall will be filling in during that time). Will have a new DS and new district beginning this summer. Also looking at a plan to do the Bible in a Year on Sundays-several options out there, researching which would be best for us to do.

Pastor Kurt closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Hollie Kessler

Christ UMC New Ministry Request Form

Please complete this form if you are requesting to start a new ministry at Christ UMC. Although we would like to honor each ministry request, please understand that not all requests will fit the mission and vision of the church.

Procedures:

Complete the "New Ministry Request Form" and give to Carol Yarian for discussion and review. If this ministry meets the mission and vision of Christ UMC, you will be notified to present your request to the Church Council for final approval.

Name Andrew Daigle **Date** 2-5-2025

Contact Information: email zowilveram@hotmail.com

Cell Phone 765-413-7580

Ministry Name Kairos Prison Ministry

What is the mission statement/purpose of the ministry?

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

Description of the ministry:

Details needed: goals, expected results, church responsibilities, number of volunteers, training, budget, fundraising, how funds will be used, etc.:

Our goal is to encourage the men and women of Christ UMC Lafayette IN to get involved in one of the three programs of the Kairos prison ministry: Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch.

The church would be responsible for lifting up the message and opportunity of the kairos programs encouraging church members to volunteer their time and donations to support the volunteers that choose to go into the prisons or serve the families of the incarcerated through kairos outside.

Members of the church can choose to support the ministry by serving on a team, donating funds to help funds to help pay for a team weekend and/or praying for the team and guests on a team weekend. Currently we have church members serving in the putnamville kairos group and the north central Indiana kairos outside group.

How does this ministry support the mission of Christ UMC to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”?

The goal of Kairos is to help to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Doing this week will support the formation and support of christian disciples in the incarcerated community and their families.

Any further information you would like to add, or you may attach other documents:

Each tem member is tasked with raising \$350 per weekend on which they serve (two weekends per year possible). Those who do not serve on a team would be given the opportunity to support the weekend by donating funds to cover that requirement and possibly more helping team members who belong to churches in less affluent areas. Each weekend is bathed in prayer for the incarcerated individuals and the team members. Christ UMC can assist by volunteering to pray for the weekends. Pastors can assist by serving on weekends and by encouraging church members to assist through donations, serving on a team, prayer or all three.
