

Christ United Methodist Church  
Council Minutes  
January 9, 2024

Present via Zoom were: Pastor Kurt Freeman, Jack Dwiggins, Paula Thoennes, Joan Banning, Nick Fetchina, Scott Gillespie, Hollie Kessler, Mike and Lisa Hilsabeck, Brian Hall, April Heady, Judy Austin, Becky Crabb, and Carol Yarian.

Chairperson Scott Gillespie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order, asking where we had seen God at work. Pastor Kurt shared several ways new people had been welcomed and had then chosen to participate in our church activities. He also shared the spread of our focus on prayer, indicating that other churches were asking for help for their congregation. In addition, LUM asked to be included in our prayer ministry and was made aware of our ministry Brianna's Hope. He was thankful for our prayer team who have been in training and working to bring this ministry forward.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as emailed.

Jack Dwiggins, for Discipleship, explained that two more classes were being scheduled this year: Life of Generosity and Life of Worship. He also shared that the Care Giver ministry group continues to meet and is thinking of ways to promote the program. He was asked about the possibility of a Zoom meeting for this group and indicated that that option could be explored.

April Heady reported for Staff Parish. She indicated that \$12,209 had been collected for the Love gift and this would be divided and paid to each staff member with the January 15 paycheck. She then asked if this needed to be shared in the Towerlight. Hollie indicated that she and Terra had prepared a thank you note to be sent for the staff in the worship guide. She also expressed thanks for Pastor Bruce helping out in Kurt's absence.

Nick Fetchina gave the Finance report, commenting that we have been good stewards of the budget. Income was under budget but almost every area of the church was also under budget. Donations were good in December. A large payment for the mortgage was sent, leaving the balance in the mortgage of \$269,000. PM Fundy also received funding during December. His comment was that we were holding our own.

Carol Yarian reported for the ministries that she oversees. Don Uglow will be leading a Lenten study. Pickleball has gained players as new attendees are drawn to the activity. Attendance at the first service has remained low while the second service has grown over time. She commented that in greeting new people it is important to remember that some individuals come in and want to remain anonymous, wishing just to sit and listen, without needing nor wanting other attention. She shared upcoming activities: January 21 there will be a hot chocolate bar available in Aroma all morning; Blood Drive January 25, 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM; Fat Tuesday Pancake meal will be February 13 from 5:00 PM to 7:00PM; Ash Wednesday service on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. A future planned Art Party will be April 6. We recently served 20 families (50 children) during Jubilee Christmas and meal packing for seniors at Food Finders continues, needing 20 volunteers. A Thank You note has been placed in the bulletin to thank the many

volunteers who participate in the needs of the congregation and community, which include meals for families when needed and meals for the homeless. She commented that none of these ministries would happen without volunteers, a vital part of our outreach.

Mike Hilsabeck had no report from the Trustees.

Brian Hall reported that Early Learning was doing well and coming back from a difficult year. Summer Camp registration will begin in mid-February. A review for our paths to quality rating will be at the end of January.

Kurt reported for Children's Ministry, Emily is currently doing another part time job and is looking into something to replace the Christmas around the World Event done last year. The Christmas pageant went well.

Kurt reported for the Youth program, attendance is widely varied, anything from 1 to 10 at any meeting as there are many school events to be considered. A new approach is being considered which would require more congregational support. Small groups would need leaders but would address the issue of the ages and different interests; the older group needing a meaningful program, while the younger group wants more fun activities. Jake would help resource the adult leaders in this plan.

In his Pastor's report, Pastor Kurt thanked Pastor Bruce for being a life saver in stepping up the last few weeks. He said that during Lent the focus will be Fight for Jesus. He is concerned that the younger families need a place to be together. Bible studies work well in small groups and the intent is to keep them that way. Evening studies could be considered. The upcoming discipleship studies of Worship and Generosity will be in the evenings. The morning Bible Study group will be assisting in these classes. He commented that we need to realize that we cannot get it "all" on Sunday morning. He then asked us to share what we hope for in our church. Paying at least 70% of our apportionments was mentioned as well as increasing attendance and participation from the congregation.

There was no old business. Under new business, Pastor Kurt said that the Lay Leadership Committee was planning a session on January 21<sup>st</sup>, between services, to learn about opportunities to serve on the various committees in the church, relating what these are and what would be required for each area. In addition the District has scheduled a day long training for laity leaders on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Monticello. It is hoped that some of our leaders will attend.

Jack Dwiggins closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Banning, Secretary