

Lafayette United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2015 - Draft

Present: Pastor Marylee, Jan Davis, Mark Emerson, Renee Emerson, Joe Darrell, Nancy Flood, Pat Hershey, Ginny Horner, Ginny Leavitt, Sue Renno, Robyn Roberts, Karen Schroter, John Slosser, Janet Thompson, and Beth White.

Interim chair Pat Hershey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present gave an Around the Table Check-In, sharing either something that brought joy or was weighing heavily on each person. Jan Davis led the group in a responsive spiritual reading.

Pastor Marylee reminded the Council of our theme for 2015: "A cord of three strands is not easily broken" (Ecc. 4.2), and discussed the three strands of our disciple-making process: Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World.

A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve new ministry team members or leaders according to a list of recommended names distributed to Council members, including new Council member Nancy Flood (Chair of Women's Ministries). Team leaders and members will be celebrated at the January 25 worship service.

Calendar

Ministry team leaders offered the following calendar items:

Nancy Flood for Women's Ministry: soup and bake sale on February 15;

Jan Davis for Worship: Harpist from 6:00 to 7:30 with drop-in communion on February 18;

Beth White for Youth Ministries: Sierra Service Project pancake breakfast on February 8;

Pastor: Redemption movie shown for five Saturdays during Lent, with soup served;

Pat Hershey for the Service team: Food Bank sorting 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. March 28;

Pastor: Seder meal on April 2.

Ministry Discussion (Highlights and Proposals)

Those present shared with the Council highlights in their ministries, shared any concerns, and brought to the Council any proposals needing approval, as follows:

Finance

John Slosser presented the 2015 balanced budget recommended by the finance committee for approval by the Council, with a correction of Pastor's recommended compensation increase to 2.6% instead of the incorrectly calculated 3%. Council reviewed the income and expense components of the budget, and a motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the budget as recommended.

Staff Parish

Pat Hershey reported for Judy Garvens that the staff party held at Judy's home in December was well attended and a success. She also expressed the gratitude of SPRC for the generosity of the church family which made possible 2.6% increases in staff salaries as well as the funding of the Children's Ministries Coordinator position for 2015.

Children's Ministries Coordinator

Mark Emerson expressed his enthusiasm for his new position as Children's Ministries Coordinator and said he is looking forward to working with the children in 2015.

Youth Ministries

Beth White reported that the youth group Christmas party was a success. She also reported on upcoming youth events, including a pizza and movie night, the SSP McCaulou's fundraiser, a Superbowl party, and the SSP pancake lunch fundraiser, and perhaps an all-church dinner at The Counter restaurant.

Joyful Beginnings Preschool Council

Karen Schroter reported that the preschool year was going extremely well. She also described a Christmas event in the church sanctuary attended by preschool students and their parents.

Senior Adult Ministries

Ginny Leavitt reported that the senior adult ministries, a new ministry, was underway with its first meeting scheduled for the last Friday of January at 2:30 p.m.

Worship

Jan Davis reported on upcoming plans for the Worship team, and also reported that over 300 people attended the Christmas Eve services.

Welcome and Evangelism

Janet Thompson reported on her committee's recent revamping of the church's greeting protocol for guests, including "nurturing greeters" who would accompany guests to fellowship. Janet encouraged Council members to make a point to meet and sit with guests, putting "hospitality first". She also asked ministry leaders to commit on a monthly basis to field a fellowship time team to make coffee and provide fellowship time snacks (of their choice).

Council discussed Janet's proposals for community lunch once a month and an Easter lunch. It was suggested that monthly community lunches should continue, and that Easter lunch might be better scheduled for Palm Sunday.

Service Team

Pat Hershey reported on the scheduled March 28 service project at the Food Bank.

Fellowship/Stitch-in-Time

Ginny Horner reported on recent and upcoming activities by Stitch-in-Time, including the Stone Soup Lunch and plans to make more hats for Afghanistan and dresses for Dress a Girl Around the World. Instead of continuing as leader of our Fellowship ministry, Ginny suggested that Stitch-in-Time be included as a ministry on Church Council, and that she continue on the Council as leader of Stitch-in-Time. A motion was made, seconded and adopted to so include Stitch-in-Time as a ministry on Church Council. The Council deferred action on filling the leadership of the Fellowship ministry or perhaps combining Fellowship into another ministry.

Women's Ministries

Nancy Flood reported that Women's Ministries will hold its first meeting on the year on February 5, when it will likely create valentine cards for elders with a lunch at noon. Council discussed the feasibility of women's ministries holding a meeting or two a year at alternate times to accommodate schedules or women members of the church who might not be able to attend on weekdays during the day.

Endowment

No report.

Outreach

Robyn Roberts described the broad scope of Outreach's work, and how other ministries of the church, such as Winter Nights and Stitch-in-Time, have emerged from Outreach as stand-alone outreach activities of the church. She mentioned that the Imagine No Malaria project is a current principal focus of Outreach.

Men's Ministries

Mark Emerson reported that Ralph Sheffer is leading a Saturday morning men's small group, who study and review "Wired Word," an on-line weekly program which considers current events in a spiritual light. The group begins at 8 a.m. and is out by 9 a.m.; all men of the church are invited.

Questions, Comments, Ideas, Insights, Inspiration, Illumination, Etc.

Pastor Marylee said she was very happy to be back following her surgery, and thanked everyone for their support, prayers and cards. She showed Council a few items from a recent local newspaper featuring news at LUMC.

Sue Renno volunteered to lead Vacation Bible School again this summer, an announcement enthusiastically applauded by members of the Council. The theme this year is science based, which will require support not only from within the church but help from others who are not church members.

Pastor Marylee reminded the Council that an Annual All-Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, February 1 following Sunday services. The purpose of this Conference is approval of the pastor's 2015 compensation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. The Council circled for a group prayer, and closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting of Church Council will be Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Darrell, Secretary