ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 20, 2018

Members Present: Bill Coppa, Pastor Abi Foerster, Renee Kinnear, Don Rickerson, Hank Heuser, Marian Ludlow, Lori Perez, Caleb Mathews, Gordon Haines and Janie Russell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Bill Coppa. The opening prayer was given by Pastor Abi.

Devotion: Bill gave the devotion. "Awaken the Giant Within" by Tony Robbins. Life is like a river – and people jump on the river without knowing where it's going. They just go with the flow, directed by the environment, rather than by choices. Eventually they take a fall which could have been prevented if better choices had been made. Set the course where you want to go and make quality choices along the way.

Motions:

- **Motion: Accept proposal of Worship Committee regarding two services on Dec. 30, i.e. 9:00 am traditional service and 10:30 Contemporary service.** (Perez/Kinnear) Motion passed.

Visitors/Congregation Time: None

Minutes: The October minutes were approved by e-mail.

Celebrations:

- Lori is leaving for California tomorrow.

Pastor Time:

Abi Foerster:

- Charge Conference is over. It went well.

Status Reports:

Lay Leaders: No report

Outreach and Evangelism: Renee Kinnear

- Halloween went well. We handed out bags with church information, candy, popcorn. 858 people came through. We have some additional ideas for next year.
- Busy time coming up:
    - Movie night is Nov. 30. We'll have dinner; the movie is "Muppet's Christmas".
    - Living Nativity – we're starting sign ups.
    - Christmas Parade: Theme is "Rocking Christmas", a 50's theme. We are #23 in the parade. We'll have two floats, one with the band.

- We would like to buy six Holiday flags to fly during the Christmas season. Each flag is 2' by 5'. They are basically like what is used downtown. Don is checking with a structural engineer as to how to put up the flags.

Missions: Lori Perez

- We didn't meet this month.
- We have some requests for December.
- Three people have signed up to read at Loch Lomond. When we take the coats to the school, we will also take flyers for Movie Night.
- We are getting ready for the Angel Shop, looking at dates. We'll have two nights at the school. We're looking at the week of Dec. 17th-20th. School is out on December 20.

Finance: Lori Perez

- We are looking at different options to re-finance the loan on the office building. We would like to get a fixed rate, as our loan will balloon soon.
- We are in the process of changing the name on our bank account to St. Thomas UMC.

Education: No report

Youth Ministry: Caleb Mathews

- Youth met tonight for "Friendsgiving". We invited several adult Sunday School classes to join us.
- Advent: We have combined Family night and Hanging of the Greens. Dinner will be at 5:00. Then families will do activities: wreaths, Chrismons, decorate cookies. Next will be the Hanging of the Greens service, followed by neighborhood caroling.
- The children's Christmas service will be December 23rd at 9:40.

Trustees: Don Rickerson

- We've had a request for an area where we can scatter ashes, with some type of a memorial, perhaps memorial bricks.
- We signed the snow removal contract.
- The new refrigerator is in the kitchen.

Stewardship: Abi Foerster

- Joe is sick.
- Most thank you notes for stewardship pledges have been written.
- Today reminder notes were sent out to people who haven't pledged yet.

Communications:

- Roxanne Sutton is the new chair of Communications. Send all information to her.

Sunbeam Children Center: Report sent by Natalie Martin

- Current Enrollment is 125 children; 87 registered in Day Care and 38 registered in Preschool.

- Staff numbers 31, including Veronica, Sarah and a few regularly used substitutes as needed.
- This month the Center started working on their Advent bags to help the Food Pantry.
- The Thanksgiving feasts are Monday, 11/19 and Tuesday, 11/20.

Worship: Marian Ludlow

- See full report at the end of the minutes.
- In prior years we had one service on the Sunday between Christmas and New Years. This year we would like to offer two services: a 9:00 am traditional service with the Chancel Choir and a 10:30 contemporary service with the Praise Band.
- **Motion: Accept proposal of Worship Committee regarding two services on Dec. 30, i.e. 9:00 am traditional service and 10:30 Contemporary service.** (Perez/Kinnear) Motion passed.
- Candles for Christmas Eve: We will have battery powered candles for children and candles that won't drip for all others.

SPRC: Gordon Haines

- We are working on the forms that are due the first of the year, discussing strengths/weaknesses and our pastoral preferences.
- We are looking at two new potential positions for next year:
  - Youth Coordinator to dovetail with Caleb.
  - Twenty-hour Food Pantry person to work in Sam Daniel.
- When Jose is on vacation, the part-time week-end workers usually fill in for Jose.

UMW: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Question: Are the Finance Documents available to anyone? They should go to all the leaders. It's especially important to discuss fund raising.

December Meeting:

- We will invite next year's leaders to attend.
- Current members will be asked to bring finger foods to share.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40. Gordon gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting will be December 17, 2018 at 7:15 at Manassas.

Worship Committee CC Report – November 18, 2018
Next meeting is Sunday, January 13, 12:30 pm

Head Usher Replacement: Nominations Committee is working on this.

Rev. Abi's 2018-2019 Worship & Preaching Plan:

January: Purpose of Worship Series

February: Sermons based on the book The Neighboring Church. Magnets for families that will stimulate them to meet their neighbors. Being a good neighbor to grow the church is not the goal, but the goal is to obey God to love our neighbors and build relationships.

March: March 3rd is the celebration for the 25th anniversary St. Thomas occupying the current church building. Possibly find a previous pastor in the life of St. Thomas to bring the sermon. March 5 is Shrove Tuesday and March 6 is Ash Wednesday. March Sermon series Questions God Asks Us comes from a book by the same name.

Family Advent Night:

- 5:00 pm – people greeted at the Hospitality table in the Narthex. Then a chili dinner on one side of the Fellowship Hall and cookie decorating on the other side. Cookies by UMW.
- 5:30 to 6:30 pm time will be 3 interactive family events. 1) Narthex, Caleb Matthews and Jody Boston will lead making a Chrismon ornament to take home. 2) Advent wreath project for the family will be upstairs. Material for 50 wreaths. This is a 'take home' project with an Advent calendar and Advent readings by Paula Renfro. Rev Abi ?? will be leading this. 3) In another room an ornament will be made by the families to give away. Printed post cards with the Christmas events will be taken with this gift to give to a teacher, neighbor, etc.
- 6:30 pm – Everyone meet in the Sanctuary with music to bless the greens and the building.
- 7:00 pm – People will board the two STUMC Christmas parade floats to carol down Grant Avenue. The week before adults will have knocked on doors to let neighbors know this will happen. This night the adults will also knock on doors.

Tuesday night worship service: Attendance has been 15 or 16. Will re-evaluate this service later if attendance continues to be low.

December 16 – Cantata at all 3 services

- Traditional at the 8:15 and 11:00 am; 9:40 am the same readings but contemporary music.

December 23 Children's Christmas Program at 9:40 am service

- Rev Abi is writing the liturgy. Caleb Matthews will lead the King's Kids performance. Rodney Miller organizes the music. Merv Lyle's Kidz Rock has a special song with the drums. This service listed as Children's Christmas program featuring King's Kids Choir, Kidz Rock drama.

Christmas Eve Services: The Christmas Eve services are leaning toward worship as families, rather than performances.

- 7:00 pm contemporary service; 9:00 pm traditional service.
- The Triumph newspaper is coming out on December 1 to announce the Dec 23 and 24 services.
- Nursery provided on Dec 24th.
- Battery candles will be available for the children. Flame candles for the adults. The candles will be given out as people go back to the pews after Communion.