

Unified Church Board of the UMCM Minutes from December 9, 2024

Board Members Present: Susan Hohs, Peggy Spraggins, Dale Leppo, Karen Fike, Rosanne Smith, Al Fellner, Brett Neff, Linda Blankenship, Julie Bahr, Paul Pendleton, Kent Shellko.

Board Members not present: Greg Harris, David Fike

Staff present: Pastor Josh, Cathy Miller, and Jill Marlow

Chairpersons and guest present: Kevin Smith, Assistant Trustee; Team Chair; Gina Picoult, Hospitality Task Group. Finance Guidance Chair Doug Wyer

Susan Hohs called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. **Pastor Josh Elliott** – opened with prayer.

Paul Pendleton led devotions by asking the Board to reflect on the blessings we have experienced this year: The following items were stated by the Board:

- ✓ New Welcome Center
- ✓ New families with children attend our church.
- ✓ Overall face lift of the church.
- ✓ Cooperation of everyone working together on various projects.
- ✓ Two Sunday School classes.
- ✓ The generosity of our members.
- ✓ Numerous volunteers working together on projects.
- ✓ Pastor Josh.
- ✓ New and improved Website – (Thank you Desiree)
- ✓ Excitement and activities of the new Men's Group.
- ✓ Music including Choir, Emilio & Stephen's work.
- ✓ The excitement and energy that is spread by the UCB Members throughout the church.

Church Finance Report – Doug Wyer stated that Jill prepared a proposed 2025 General Fund Budget which is \$12,000 less than 2024. Doug said that this is mostly because the required Apportionments have been reduced by \$14,000 for 2025. Doug also said that they removed the line item for a Maintenance Staff person at \$10,000. The 2025 budget reflects an increase of \$19,000 in salary and benefits to staff.

After a short discussion, Paul Pendleton moved to approve the proposed 2025 budget as presented. Julie Bahr seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

Jill stated that today, she received a donation of \$13,000 which was unexpected. It was suggested that the Finance Guidance Team discuss this donation and make a recommendation as to its best use. The UCB asked the Finance Guidance Team to make a recommendation to the UCB in January.

Jill discovered that there was an error in calculating the 2025 salary for Stephen Cline. Therefore, Dale Leppo moved to adjust the 2025 salary for Stephen Cline to \$10,300 for 2025. Brett Neff seconded the motion which was approved by the board.

Doug added that the church is in good shape financially to finish the renovations in the kitchen and to handle some other items that need repair in 2025.

Kevin stated that a new group called Storybook Yoga would like to lease two rooms at the lower level for the purpose of their children's program of yoga, crafts and other activities for \$700 per month beginning in June. Kevin stated that Julie, the owner of the program, is prepared to replace the floor in the two rooms as her expense. Kevin stated that in lieu of this donation, they have offered her the first month free rent. Kevin will be working to confirm the details of this new tenant in the coming weeks.

Trustee: Al Fellner/ Kevin Smith – reviewed their report on the status of the capital projects that was emailed to the board.

Dale Leppo – stated the hospitality team will be taking a break during December and will regroup in January to continue their activities and planned improvements.

Communication – Kent – No report. The Board stated they were very happy with the improvements to the website.

Christian Education – Cathy Miller – stated that this Sunday, Dec. 15, the children will be performing a Christmas pageant. She stated that at this time, there will be 25 children participating.

Photo Directory – No update.

Old Business

Website and Communications - Kent Shellko – No present.

Enhanced Revenue Task Force - Peggy Spraggins - No report.

New Monthly Messenger – Peggy Spraggins – No report.

Susan recognized the three UCB Members who will be stepping down at the end of the year: Al Fellner, Karen Fike, Greg Harris, and thanked them for their work on the board. Susan also recognized the three new members who will be starting a three-year term in January: Doug Wyer, Kevin Smith, and Gina Picoult.

Roseann Smith suggested that we should find a way to communicate the churches activities to the congregation more effectively. The board held a short discussion about ways to do this such as using social media, like Facebook and Instagram. Kent suggested that we need to create a digital image that can be used in a variety of ways. Gina suggested that we might utilize the screen before Sunday service to inform our members of upcoming events.

Susan stated that Dale Leppo has agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the UCB for 2025.

The next meeting of the UCB will be on Monday, January 13, 2025, and in February the meeting will be moved to the 3rd Monday of the month, February 17, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm with a closing prayer by Pastor Josh.

Minutes prepared by P. Spraggins