

Minutes

Peace United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting

February 5, 2017

Call to Order: President, Joe Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:22 pm.

Quorum count: 42 needed - 59 in attendance; a quorum was declared.

Opening and Prayer: Pastor Wendy Bruner

Pastor Bruner stated that after a little more than a year she is overjoyed to be the pastor of Peace Church. The Freedom School, in partnership with the Deaconess Foundation and two other North Webster churches, Unity United Methodist and Parks Chapel AME, has been officially approved for six weeks this summer to be held at Peace UCC Church for 50 students grades K-2. There will be two additional Freedom Schools held in the St. Louis area this summer.

Approval of July 31, 2016 congregational Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Debbie Kelly; second: JoAnn Alves; motion passed, the minutes were approved as written.

Reception of Team Reports: President, Joe Kelly

Joe Kelly, thanked the Governing Body Team Leaders, asked leaders in attendance to come forward, stated their reports were in our 2016 Annual Report, "Doing God's Work in the World," and gave opportunity for questions from the congregation. There were no questions.

Mr. Kelly continued to reflect that we have been challenged, by our pastor, to (1) see those we call "other" where their spirit meets the bones of their humanity and (2) to recognize that it's through the cracks, not just the world's but even our own, that we might see our way clear to being and doing our best. This is our opportunity together to take a clear-eyed look at whether we have been compassionate toward the world, and if we have been ringing those bells that still can ring. He went on to mention the many ways and programs, both recent and established, that we have been involved in over the past year. We have also experienced many new people coming to see what Peace UCC is all about.

Recognition of the Rev. Al Schon: Joe Kelly

The Rev. Al Schon was recognized for his love and service to our congregation as part of the pastoral team for the last 12 years; he recently retired at the end of this past year but will continue to worship with us as a congregant and thankfully will continue to lead the Sprouts for Peace program which he helped start several years ago. We are grateful for his presence and many contributions in the life of our congregation. Mr. Schon was given an appreciative round of applause.

Peace UCC Foundation Report: Bob Karr, Foundation Trustee

Mr. Karr stated the income from the Peace UCC Foundation Funds is used to support the General Fund which in 2016 amounted to \$33,325.22. For 2016, the trustees set the spending rate at 4.5% of the average fair market value of the fund over the preceding 16 quarters. The principal balance at the end of 2016 was \$611,018.60. The Trustees affirmed the rate of 4.5% also for 2017.

Trustee business: The Foundation consists of six trustees on rolling three-year terms, and two trustees are needed to fill positions. Mr. Karr made a motion to elect David Ban and Clarence Myers to three-year terms, ending 12/31/2019. Bob Risk second, no discussion, motion passed.

2017 Financial Budget: Harry Wilson, Financial Team leader

Harry Wilson presented a recommended balanced budget for 2017 of \$411,055 which included \$21,825 added from surplus funds at the end of 2016. He thanked team leaders for prudent spending in 2016. Pledge income in 2017 is anticipated to be lower than was pledged in 2016; however, total envelope giving is good. The staff was given a raise of 5%. It is hoped that deferred maintenance, including sealing of the parking lot, can be accomplished in 2017. Members of the Financial Team were recognized and thanked for their service.

Mr. Wilson moved that the 2017 Budget of \$411,055 be adopted. Colleen Gilmore seconded.

Discussion on the 2017 budget included comments and questions about the lower pledge amount (*some are giving but not pledging and unforeseen circumstances have changed some pledges*) and the surplus funds of over \$28,000 at the end of 2016. (*Surplus funds include 3,415.25 carried over from 2015*)

Ken Ulmer stated that Peace UCC is one of only 20 UCC churches out of 143 churches in the Missouri Mid-South Conference considered growing in membership and/or finances.

Question was called and passed by vote of 53 members.

Call for Vote: Motion passed that the 2017 Budget of \$411,055 be adopted.

Other Business:

Ken Ulmer, Chair of the Refresh II Committee, stated that the Fellowship Hall restroom is in the process of being totally refurbished. It will be designated a family restroom in ADA compliance and will include two sinks, changing table and one commode. The cost of refurbishment is covered approximately two-thirds from remaining Refresh Campaign funds and the rest from surplus funds.

Wynn Miller asked about ways the congregation could be kept better informed in regard to the meetings and activities of the Governing Body. He moved that the minutes of the Governing Body's meetings be made available to the congregation. Second, Paul Kachulis.

Discussion included ideas of keeping the minutes on the church website updated more timely, posting a copy of the minutes on the narthex bulletin board, and publishing a summary in the weekly e-mail and/or the Sunday bulletin.

Bob Risk recommended the phrase "after they are approved" be added to the motion. Wynn Miller agreed to the addition as a friendly amendment.

Motion as amended: The Minutes of the Governing Body's meetings be made available to the congregation after they are approved. Motion passed.

Lola Contestabile asked for an update about the YMCA building. Joe Kelly stated that a developer is interested and a meeting which will include members of Peace Church is scheduled very soon.

Closing: Wendy Bruner

Adjournment: motion, Dee Ban; second, Brenda Detrick; The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Leuthauser, Acting Secretary