

Annual Meeting Minutes, Jan 24, 2016

Kathy opened the meeting with rousing version of Row Row Your Boat, in honor of the work we will be doing tonight. She reviewed the consensus process with a handout. (See attached). New items that are brought up will be parking-lotted and dealt with at another time, so we can get through our agenda for tonight.

Betty was the process observer.

27 people were in attendance.

Minutes were read by Penny P. for the Nov. 2015 and the Jan. 17, 2016 meetings. Jonnel asked for clarity around the endorsements proposal. She recommends we put out a sheet of what has been proposed and accepted. She also asked that if Steering circle is endorsing something, that town hall be told that. We later clarified that Steering circle would not be endorsing on their own.

Budget review by Evie: (See attached)

-We saved a lot in staff costs with Kathleen retiring in June.

-Spent 11K less than anticipated.

-we took in 99.6 % of pledges for 2015 or \$48,582

-Begging bowl and unanticipated donations were added in to make \$49,727.

-In 2015, we used \$4,774 of carryover money (from 2014).

Staff for 2016 were given a 3% raise. Program expenses stayed the same. We increased UCC Annual meeting budget so it covers actual expenses. We increased our UCC Mission/Outreach/Social Justice to \$1600 as it was lowered in the past few years, when we didn't have enough money. We always budget exactly what we need so that makes us vulnerable to lower funds if a high contributing family leaves, as happened this year. Because of that, our income deficit is higher for this 2016 pledge year.

-We do have a large carryover. Town Hall recommends we use what we need to balance our budget this year and donate \$3000 to United Churches for capital improvements as they see fit. The remaining carryover of \$2,617 would be kept as a buffer and/or carryover for 2017.

-We don't know yet what the health insurance premium for staff will be for the new year. Evie is still trying to get that number. We will have monies in the buffer, available if health costs come in higher than we're anticipating.

-It was observed that we may need to be out there getting more support in attendance/pledges, to keep up with our budget/staff costs.

-Jan V. brought up that we used \$400 from the Benevolence/ Pastors Fund, for food for some of our extra town halls, (when Kathleen announced her retirement)

and a retirement gathering. He thinks the Pastors Fund money should be used differently. Benevolence/Pastors Fund money is traditionally used at the discretion of the pastor, for emergency uses, for example, to needy members in our group or beyond. Miriam suggested we establish a line item to fill the need to supply food for special and unanticipated meetings. It was agreed that taking money from the line, "Unanticipated Expenses" is how we will proceed. We also need to figure out an understanding about how and when the Pastors Fund monies should be used.

-We discussed putting \$400 back into the pastors fund. Betty suggested we look at it at the next budget time and decide what amount there should be in the pastors fund and then, fund it each year, to keep it at the established level. 2 issues need clarified:

1. Ethical issue of how to use Pastors fund, and
2. Is there enough money in that fund now.

Hal proposed and it was accepted that this be tabled. Steering circle should bring back to town hall, a discussion of how Pastor's Fund money can be spent and how (or if) to add a line item for expenses around supporting community events that were not anticipated. Hal said he would be happy to chip in to pay for pizza if the need arises!

-We reached consensus on the budget as proposed!

Parking lot issues by Jonnel:

The benefit of recruitment and a thorough discussion of how to recruit more people. She also brought up the need to attend to the UCC connection and that it can happen through attending the UCC Annual Meeting.

Minister's Report by LeeAnn

(See attached)

Benevolence Report by Jan Vleck

(See Attached)

Nika as Youth and Children's Program Coordinator:

We have a Mighty program but we're small in numbers. Average is 6.6 kids per Sunday eve. All leaders are great and projects are great and we need more kids.

Nika for Fruit Sale:

We need to consider the sales energy, maybe early in the spring, to discuss our sales energy for the fruit sale. We have a good team to lead us but we're falling short each year on selling.

Call Shepherd Report by Jan Rocks:

Jo Curtz -new Treasurer, replacing Lester Krupp. Lester and Jo will take care of changing the WSECU authorizations, including putting Jo's name on the signature card and taking Hal Spencer's name off.

Evie is giving up Finance Shepherd/Jan R. w/take over

Call Shepherd position is open.

Jonnel and Penny will lead Fort Flagler this Spring.

Laura and Sophie will lead Crop Walk

Greeter jobs will be set up with a core number of people, one of whom is Jonnel.

Social Justice committee report by Betty:

Scott B, Karen T. and Betty also make a small but mighty group. They've worked on Pesticides and Bees, the oil train issue, pride festival/parade and doing the MLK celebration. They want more members!

Announcements:

Jan 31, 2016 we'll have Cory Parsons doing his application/celebration.

Feb. 21st will be a time to ask questions of the hiring committee and discuss the hiring of one of the 2 applicants.

Feb. 28th at Town Hall, we will hear a synopsis of the Selection Committee's entire process and the resultant recommendation.