

CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
September 18, 2018
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Our Mission: “Inviting all to become disciples of Jesus Christ serving Carlisle and beyond.”

Present: Christina Benson, Ron Chipriano, Debbi Goeltsch, Wayne Henderson, Mira Hewlett, Kerm Leitner, Stephanie Peffer, Jim VanZandt and Roger Woods. Absent: Jeff Boley. Guests: John Seaton.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Kerm Leitner, chair.
- II. Devotions and opening prayer were led by Ron Chipriano.
- III. Moments with the Pastors:
 - A. Pastor Jim:
 1. Charge Conference is approaching.
 2. Halfway Celebration set for Worship in all three services, there will be cake and another “Give” video.
 - B. Pastor Mira:
 1. Thanks to everyone who stepped up in her absence. This was her first official day back.
 2. Work on the website is going well and should be finalized up and running by November 1.
 3. With regard to support for Hurricane Florence, there is already a mission trip scheduled for South Carolina in March 2019. These plans could change depending on need. Also, a special offering envelope will be distributed on Sunday, Sept. 30.
- IV. Chair’s Announcements:
 - A. Kerm indicated that Michael Watkins and his family are actively searching for a home in the Carlisle area.
 - A. The United Way Day of Caring is scheduled for October 12 and 13 people have signed up.
 - B. The LC Dinner is scheduled for October 15 at the River City Blues Club.
 - C. The Staff/LC Christmas Dinner will now be on December 8, at Mt. Asbury.
- V. Finance Reports, Wayne Henderson reporting
 - A. Wayne presented the financial totals for July.
 - B. Following a motion by Ron Chipriano and a second by Christina Benson, the Leadership Council approved an increase in the operating expenses in the 2018 budget in the amount of \$10,875.00. This followed a 2nd Quarter Budget Review by Kathy Charette and will account for expenses for the new website (which is anticipated to be up in early November), online giving and utility usage.
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Kaleidoscope Effect - Pastor Jim will be doing a sermon relating to Authenticity. His presentation of the book at the Fishing Creek United Methodist Leadership Retreat was well received and impactful for their Visioning and Planning.
 - B. The Groundbreaking/Mid Capital Campaign Celebration

1. Jeff has the hardhats designed especially for the Building Committee and will be making the presentation.
2. Pete Posey requested to make a presentation.
3. We have volunteers lined up to direct traffic and serve ice cream. Deb requested that should weather force a postponement that it be set out at least 2 weeks to allow for all the reorganization of the volunteers. Kids will be presented with hardhats and there will be hayrides available. Invitations were sent the media, government officials from the Borough of Carlisle, South Middletown Township, and officials from Susquehanna Conference.

C. Canvassing the Spring Garden Neighborhood

On September 9, 14 people went out and knocked on doors. It went well and it was thought that the overcast rainy weather helped. Kathy Charette led a well organized operation that was well received by the neighborhood and appreciated by CB.

D. Leadership Workshop

26 people were invited and only 2 RSVP'd. The Workshop was cancelled and Kerm will meet with the 2 people individually.

VII. New Business

A. SGC Clean & Green Tax Status: Rollback Tax Exemption

Because the land remained leased to a farmer, in 2017 we applied for and were granted Green tax status which reduced the taxes owed on the property from \$230,930 to \$23,700. We must now apply to remove that status and seek tax exempt status as a religious institution. We would also apply for the rollback taxes to be "excused." Following a motion by Jeff Barnes and a second by Roger Woods, the Leadership Council unanimously approved retaining the CGA Law Firm to handle CUMC's Clean and Green Tax Status and Rollback Tax Exemption as required by the start of construction.

B. 2019 Budget

Each area should be preparing to submit their budget for next year. Kerm, Stephanie and Jim will review salaries for the coming year. The annual budget will need to include the LOC fees beyond the current year.

C. A Way Forward

The Special Session to make a final denominational decision is scheduled for February 2019. It's now time to start moving the congregation to the point where it can be prepared to answer the questions that may be posed to it. Pastor Jim has proposed a strategy for the LC to consider in leading/preparing the congregation towards potential decision points. Highlights of Pastor Jim's plan are:

1. Create a detailed and informative paper explaining the creation, work, and implications of the special Commission on a Way Forward by the General Conference that can be handed out after a worship service. It should be done after the Judicial Council ruling in October on the constitutionality of the plans currently under consideration.
2. In the Winter Quarter, have Adult Grow offer a study of the book, "Crucial Conversations – Tools for Talking When the Stakes Are High." It is a well received book offering guidelines and hope for anyone involved in difficult conversations – from interpersonal, to

family to community and national issues. We would want to encourage several of the groups to consider utilizing it.

3. In the Spring Quarter offer studies of one or more of the following books:
 - Finding Our Way
 - Bible, Gender, Sexuality
 - Embracing Wideness
 - Torn

4. In the Summer and early Fall have church-wide meeting to give denominational updates and to create opportunity for roundtable discussions with guidelines and questions, followed by a panel discussion of pastors and CUMC leaders.

IIV. Around the Table

- A. Stephanie will be leading the Financial Peace class on her own.
- B. Mira advised of Rhonda's dad's illness and status in hospice care.
- C. Kerm advised that though the Sunbeams had lost 6 to Sparks, 29 had signed up for Sunbeams.

X. The Open Session was closed with prayer by Pastor Jim at 7:15 pm.

LC Dinner on Monday, October 15, 2018, at the River City Blues Club at 7pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 22, 2018 –Executive Session at 5:00pm followed by the Open Session at approximately 5:30 to 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Woods, "Acting" Recording Secretary