

Church Council Meeting
Messiah United Methodist Church
May 22, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Opening

Chair Brenda Weston called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Also in attendance were Fred Blum, Paul Bouley, Sherry Bouley, Tracey Briggs, Anne Clymer, Orin Hatton, Carolyn Pemberton, Jo Ann Scichilone, Peggy Tugwell, Richard Underwood, Pete Wells, Jeff Weston, Kathy Willson, Maurice Wilson and staff members Robin Ringler and Reggie Tuck.

Maurice Wilson gave the devotional, and minutes from last month's church council meeting and charge conference were approved as submitted by acclaim.

Committee reports

- **Finance.** Jeff Weston reported that the church is in good financial shape. He had two motions:
 1. That \$15,000 be transferred from the Funds Balance to the Youth Center Improvement Fund to continue the repair and improvement to the Youth Center in accordance with the requirement defined by the Youth Leadership and agreed to by the BOT.
 2. That Council approve a commitment of \$25,350 for Rising Hope's Capital Fund Campaign. This will be distributed to Rising Hope.

The Youth Center funding will be used mainly for doors with glass that will be more welcoming. Rising Hope is a mission church that is asking all area churches to make commitments as calculated by a formula based on their size. Funds will be used for much-needed kitchen remodeling. The vote is for the commitment, with payments not starting until next year. Both motions were seconded and passed by acclaim.

- **Trustees.** Pete Wells reported on the Youth Center renovation and repainting the narthex bathroom. The trustees are assessing kitchen remodeling within the same physical footprint – no tearing down walls.
- **Congregational Care.** Kathy Willson reported that the CPR course is rescheduled for June 24. There are four people signed up, and we're hoping for more.

Visioning

Brenda resumed the visioning exercise with the pieces of the heart of Messiah: Building Faith, Worship, Serving Others, Youth, and People. The question is, how do we combine pieces into action; mission/vision statements generally describes action. And what does this mean?

Points of discussion:

- Doesn't Building Faith encompass all of the other components?
- There's a distinction between bringing people closer to God through Bible studies and small groups and introducing the unchurched to God. Small groups that have been meeting for years may seem closed to newcomers.
- Some of the language we use doesn't mean anything to the unchurched, people who have never experienced God's love. Lenten testimonies were very meaningful and accessible to a range of people.
- We can be welcoming in other contexts (soccer, social gatherings) and shouldn't mistake building faith with getting people into church.
- Church should be a safe place to question.

- Where does theology come into this? Who is God, and why is this relevant today?
- The church should be a benign environment for seekers. We should try to demystify the large church environment that we expose people to.

Brenda refocused the discussion: It's not about how we do something but what we do. Everyone has to understand the vision really well so we can explain it to others. How can we put those five pieces together so people can identify with it? Worshipping, Serving Others and Building Faith are all active words; People and Youth are populations. Where is the transition point between attending and getting involved?

There was discussion about Vision 20/20 statement and the idea that "Serving God By Serving Others" is much more easily understood than "Contagious Joy." "Serving God by Serving Others" is the DNA of Messiah. But in thinking of the five themes, they are all things that some people think we do good or great, while others think aspects could be improved. We have to ask what it will take to fill in these gaps.

The mission has to be simple and broad. Brenda shared a 2012 article from Forbes about [7 Pillars of Connecting with Absolutely Anyone](#): Be genuine; provide massive help; pay ridiculous attention; connect with people close to them; persistence will win most battles; make real friends; remain unforgettable. How do we become unforgettable?

Summer Schedule

Brenda discussed the meeting calendar. Brian Elliff will lead the June meeting in her absence. With so many people traveling during the summer, she suggested we skip the June and July meetings and have a committee of four or five people continue with the visioning work. It was decided to leave the dates on the calendar just in case, but we will plan not to meet in July and August unless there is something that has to be decided.

Pastor's Report

Reggie said he has been thinking beyond trying to get people to come into the church to figuring out ways to interface with people outside the church. He has considered working one day a week at McDonald's. There was some discussion of the non-members who come here for meetings and whether a greeter might help.

Reggie reported that the worship numbers are sliding and requested anyone who has any ideas why and what can be done come to tell him.

New Business

Staff-Parish Relations. Carolyn Pemberton reported that Janet Oak's position has been divided into two part-time positions. Severt Shands will be taking over technology part.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Briggs

