

Saint Mark UMC
Church Council Minutes
February 27, 2018

6:30 P.M. Meeting called to order by: Richard Nelson

Welcome and Approval of Minutes: The January, 2018 Minutes were reviewed by the members present.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Karl Turner and seconded by Rob Wood. All voted in favor.

Richard Nelson reiterated our "new format" for council meetings and explaining the "popcorn reporting" for those who wanted to provide praise, news, plans, etc. in an effort to keep the meeting flowing. Proposed that we will no longer provide hard copies of the Minutes, they will only be emailed to each member of the council. There were no objections.

Core Values and Leadership Development -

Richard Nelson addressed the "Culture of Invitation" – reaching out to community.

This month's highlight commitment for us as Church Council to concentrate on is "Curiosity" (Proverbs 18:15 – "An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.") WHEN LIFE IS LIVED BY ME (we commit to growing in self-awareness, regard every interaction as an opportunity to learn, and commit to curiosity as a path to rapid learning) vs. WHEN LIFE HAPPENS TO ME (we commit to being right and to seeing this situation as something that is happening to me; we commit to being defensive especially when I am certain that I am RIGHT). The Council read aloud the wording provided on the Agenda, which gave a commitment paragraph to each way we choose to live.

RYAN KARR addressed what is "EGO" (false self – "off center" – we are god) vs. (true self – "centered" – trusting God) based on a book by Richard Rohr – a Catholic Theologian. "Ego" tells us we are right, feet firm, we are god; anytime you take offense it is ego controlling your emotions. If you're centered and trusting God – you're thinking outside the box. Your ego wants to be right; fights to be right vs. being open; trusting God. Your ego makes you closed, defensive, worry, complain, whining vs. living in the moment; not worrying; make the choice to shift on how you react/think outside the box. With an ego, we get defensive which causes drama vs. being open, curious, you don't have to defend. Richard Rohr emphasized:

what I know;
what I know I don't know; and
what I don't know that I don't know.

Celebrations and Collaborations – "popcorn" reporting:

- Tina Nelson congratulated Katherine Voorhees for receiving the Finley Award at Spain Park High School. The pancake breakfast on 2-10-18 was a success. Discovery Weekend is in a few days which takes a huge amount of everyone's time and effort and appreciates all of the volunteers which includes parents and college students.
- Frankie Hays had a praise about the Nurturing Committee -- she has had 40+ volunteers and they have divided into 2 teams (red team and blue team).

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- Rev. Drew Clayton had a praise that Chris and Deanne Ryan are new members.
- John Nelson provided a report on the Family Life Retreat which was Feb. 2-4. The total attendance this year was 131 adults and children. 2017's retreat had 145 adults and children and 2016 retreat had 99 adults and children. There is \$388.97 remaining from the fees collected for the retreat that will be applied to the deposit for the 2019 retreat. John has reserved February 1-3, 2019 for next year – same time frame as this year aligning with Super Bowl Sunday. The weekends before and after the reserved date have events already booked in the Eva Walker Center and Retreat Center, so we are limited to the reserved weekend in order to utilize these facilities.

He has received a couple of suggestions for teams to plan and coordinate the retreat for 2019. Rob Wood had suggested approaching the new Life Sunday School Class to help organize and plan the event. The retreat speaker, Mark Seagle, had suggested the Workout in the Word group as a potential team to help organize and plant the event.

John likes the suggestions as they would bring fresh ideas for the weekend theme and activities. Also having an existing group would create a vested interest in the group to participate and advertise the event. He will contact the leaders of these groups to see if they would consider leading the 2019 retreat.

Richard Nelson and John Nelson will be available to support new team participants on the planning time frame and registration process.

- Rev. Clayton stated Rev. Karr is still working on the poll results for use with contemporary worship.
- Sandy Jenkins/ELC Director provided a report – presently we have 123 students and 27 employees. They have given 8 tours this month (mainly information about next school year). The infant classes are full for next year – have two on the waiting list. There are just a few spots left in 2K for fall. 3-3K classes are full – potentially will add another 3K class. They will assess needs closer to summer. 4K as of now only one class for fall – due to the rise of pre-K programs at the schools. Sandy's full report is attached.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Ryan Karr showed video about new Alternative Worship Service which will start April 15 or April 22. We will try for 1 year and reassess. The target group that showed interest in the service were 18 years old and under and the 30-50 year olds. The ELC breakroom will be converted to a coffee shop and the times of all Saint Mark services will change by 30 minutes.
9 am – Early Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
9 am – Alternative Worship (Family Life Center)
10 am – Sunday School
11 am – Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
There's a psychological aspect of 9:00 am v. 8:30 am. The logistics of the service are continuing to be worked out.

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- Tina Nelson said Discovery Weekend is this weekend and the prayer service is Saturday. Said if anyone was writing letters, they would need to be turned in ASAP. Katherine Voorhees who is President of Youth Council, asked for prayers. Paul Conner asked how the letters work and Tina provided that information.

Tina said the Youth Fundraiser – Spaghetti Dinner/Live Auction (with Scott Perry) is coming up on Sunday, March 18. Susan Lee is in charge of providing baskets for auction. Asked for support by attending.

- Dot Mueller reported on Remarkables Brunch will be in the Fellowship Hall on March 17 from 10-noon inviting everyone to come and enjoy food and fellowship and participate in small group brainstorming about monthly event that you would like to be involved in.
- Ruth Miller reported that all choirs are preparing for Palm Sunday's Call to Worship – Palm Processional. The Chancel Choir is working on The Seven Last Words of Christ by Theodore Dubois to lead the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, March 25 at 6:30 pm.
- Bettye Brown reported that crosses will be handed out at Palm Sunday services which were made by families in mud hut villages in Africa. Our purchase helps to support their local economy; 3/29 Maundy Thursday (Seder Meal) and ceremony at 6:30 pm needs volunteers to help – will be held in the Fellowship Hall; 3/30 Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be at 6:30; Rev. Ryan Karr will lead the Easter Sunrise Service; 3/24 is Easter Egg Hunt; Confirmation Class started this past Sunday and will be confirmed on Sun. 4/29 – confirmands will not meet on Easter Sunday which is the start of Spring Break. Drew is covering the Basics of Christianity in 6 weeks.
- Carol Moats reported there is a UMW Link-Up Brunch coming up on Sat. 4/21 10 AM and they have been hard at work feeding our staff, baking desserts for the Youth Auction and supporting other ministries. Thanked the Trustees that they will present the church with a beautiful Chalk Talk picture created by Dr. Lowell Vann at the October meeting and this artwork will be hung by Easter noting that the Fellowship Hall has no art work on the concrete walls or drywall.

BUSINESS (Old and New):

- Scott Perry – SPRC – stated they are very proud of our staff and how they operate. An oversight on the budget does not reflect support for 2 elders – support pastoral salaries for next 3 years. There was a discrepancy/miscommunication – reported incorrectly as income (not an expense) which overstated our budget.
- Paul Conner questioned \$5,000 – salary for new service. Scott Perry clarified that this was designated for the Worship Leader.
- Drew Clayton: he's very grateful for Ryan Karr – the new service is a BIG project; there is a newly formed communication team; social media outlets (i.e. website, newsletter, Facebook live) – helps represent faces at Saint Mark – not just a building – over 200 people logged in last week for "Live Cast" for Lent which is live time/live responses – log on 11:55 for our next "Live Cast" at Noon on Wednesday.

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- We will not have a March meeting which falls during Holy Week. Our next meeting will be April 24.

- Frankie Hays reported that the new member board has been moved to the vestibule.

After determining there was no further business to report, Richard Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Scott Myers made motion; Paul Conner 2nd motion.

The meeting was adjourned after Rev. Clayton provided a prayer of dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wood
Recording Secretary