

The United Methodist Church of Evergreen

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting

January 14, 2018

Attending:

Jeanne Ambrosier (Lay Leader)
Michael Eaton (Co-Chair Missions)
Russell Fletcher (Pastor)
Penn Gildersleeve (Chair, Trustees)
Bill Graf (Co-Chair Missions)
Dave Loomis (Administrative Chair)
Joyce Snapp (at large)
Glenn Stoll (Chair, United Methodist Men (UMM) Trustees)
George Wood (at large)
Matt Sailor (at large)
Terry Vogt (Membership)
Sarah Sailor (Education)
Jennifer Eliassen (Finance)
John Olson (ECho)
Jo Ann Vogt (SPR)
Janice Vickery (substitute minute taker)

Opening Prayer: The Rev. Russell Fletcher

Review of October Minutes: Dave Loomis

Dave asked for any corrections to the minutes of the October 8, 2017 meeting. Penn asked that the item on changing the list of check signers remain an open item for his action as it is not yet resolved. Jeanne Ambrosier motioned for item to remain open; seconded by Bill Graf. There being no other comments, the minutes were approved.

Stewardship: Dave Loomis

This year's stewardship campaign was a great success. Thank you to Russell, Jennifer, and Vickie for doing a great job. We received 74 pledge cards totaling \$258,294. New pledges amount to \$66,780 and 31 members increased their pledges by \$14,704. Our 2018 income is estimated to be \$374,199, which is 113% of our 2018 annual budget of \$331,144.

Finance Report: Jennifer Eliassen

Church general budget income for 2017 was \$332,571 with the budget being \$313,348—surplus of \$20,767. Church has a net income of just over \$31,528. Jennifer said there is \$39,000 in the checking account and she will be moving money from that account into the Money Market account, which she has done twice before in 2017.

Pastor's Report: Russell Fletcher

Russell said he's delighted where the church is now. This is a time of new beginnings. Dave remarked on what at excellent five years we've had with Russell as our Pastor.

Trustees Report: Penn Gildersleeve

For the next Men's Breakfast/Work Day there are a lot of items. Everyone has been great in asking what needs to be done.

Penn asked if everyone knew there are five bathrooms downstairs. There is one bathroom-sized room by the boiler room which is plumbed and has a floor drain and now used for storage. This would be a good place to get the children cleaned up. Julie from Great Escape has offered to pay for putting in the shower. Sarah thought this was a great idea for the UMCE youth to have a place to shower when needed—rather than being transported to Buchanan Rec Center to use their showers. Joyce suggested some signage be prepared to let people know there are other bathrooms downstairs, rather than having a waiting line for the ladies' bathroom upstairs. Also, raising the height of the toilets upstairs would be helpful. No handicap toilets downstairs per Penn. Nothing is priced out yet, so Dave asked that the concept be fleshed out to the first level This would be very positive for the church. Also, no code requirements needed.

An idea came up at Jerry Huber's service to install a big-screen TV—60 inch—above the door into the narthex from the social hall. This would be very easy to connect. Even though we have a big screen TV in the social hall, this would be good for movie nights as well as memorial services when the sanctuary is filled. The TV would cost around \$600. Unfortunately, this would be a liability for theft in that position. Dave asked Trustees to investigate further.

Retaining wall is still leaning and need of repair. This will not be a case of just pushing the wall upright but removing dirt from behind the wall. Footings are deep beneath the wall and will take some work.

Glenn suggested changing the outside entry doors to the sanctuary to make the entrance more visible and welcoming. Updated doors with non-breakable glass would be good. In the meantime, painting the doors a contrasting color would be a big help in guiding visitors to the entrance. Good idea!

A three-foot diameter tree on the property visible from Safeway that had fallen over is now dying. Penn will take care of getting it removed. We don't want children climbing around there.

All churches in the southwest counties are seeing a significant change on their insurance policies for wind and hail damage coverage due to the incredible hail storm suffered in this area last spring. Dave said a comp for insurance is needed. We never know what the cost will be until we are billed.

SPR Report: JoAnn Vogt

She's been working with the District Supervisor on what sort of pastor we need. We were to hear by the first of the year, but nothing yet. Russell said of Jerry Huber's SPR vacancy spot that

Denwood Butler was willing to fill, but due to health concerns he did not think he could. Now that he is feeling better he may be able to do so. If not, John Olson would replace him.

George asked JoAnn about staff compensation in concern that we may not measure up to other churches. JoAnn said in visiting other churches, our staff is compensated more than others.

Membership Report: Terry Vogt

Membership has increased to 449 as of today and we can expect to reach 500 in the next few years. Terry remarked about all the energy he sees in the church vs. 4 to 5 years ago and that the change has been remarkable. He credits Russell with a big part of this. We may even be able to have an associate pastor in the future years. We now have marketing info (from Lori Miscovich) and we will learn how to use it. Today we had an excellent pancake breakfast.

Youth and Children Report: Sarah Sailor

Sarah gave a lengthy report on upcoming opportunities in the future for our youth. Generally, families attend church about every three weeks. Now that adult education is gearing up, she's hoping the children of those families will be attending more regularly. The current trend is that most of the children attend at 9:30 and a few at 10:30. Sarah has 40 "wallets" for the kids containing all kinds of things for them—she's only had 6 to 12 kids on a regular basis present to receive them. She's planning to try out a new format for VBS this year—all designed to fit into one weekend—first weekend in June. She wants to give it a try for one year and see if it works for the church. Michael expressed concern that this format would not instill some momentum in them that by coming everyday would. Sarah explained all the kids do not attend everyday anyway. All of this depends on family dynamics, transportation, etc. There are many formats for VBS available—this is just one. Other possibilities would be VBS in the evenings—and we'd need to feed them dinner--or even every weekend for a month.

Penn asked about giving the youth a more active part in the church services. Sarah answered she's always trying to get kids involved. It can be risky. Kids can be ready to participate and then at the last minute not show up or change their minds. Sarah thought when we have a fifth Sunday in the month, this would be a good time for the kids to participate. She finds the children participating right now are very individualized and she's struggling on Sunday mornings to find individual items for them to be involved in.

This year is a local mission year, so they'll be staying together here at the church rather than traveling. The time is July 18-22 (Weds through Sat). They will cook breakfast for the congregation on Sunday morning, July 23. They will be working on many projects for the church, and if they run out, they will volunteer their time for ECho. Sarah needs chaperons for this week and is always looking for volunteers. She added how great the shower downstairs idea is and is hoping it would be ready by mid-July, so the kids could shower here at the church and not have to be transported to the Buchanan Rec Center for showers.

Lay Care Report: Janice Vickery

Jeanne Ambrosier indicated

tThe Women's Bible study is doing well. Jeanne said if all members attended at one time, there would be 19 in attendance. Five members of the group are new to the church. Janice reported for the lay care food program that the freezer is well-stocked; we're taking care of everyone in need.

Missions: Bill Graf/Michael Eaton

What a good group this is and it's growing. And we can always use more volunteers. The Mexican Lunch will be on March 4; our profits for this have gone to our youth mission trips in the past years. Missions has more money in their budget this year. Some members do a good job of support and others grab onto a need they discover and go with it.

Our church participates in Family Promise at the Jefferson Avenue Church which helps families get back on their feet. We could use more help in supplying a meal or doing an overnight from time to time. New volunteers would not have to do this on their own—someone who's done this before would accompany any new volunteers to show them the ropes. There are also opportunities to help with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Emergency Shelter Program, and others.

The Alternative Gift Fair held in November, with seven churches participating, earned \$119,000 this year; the bake sale earned \$112,000 to cover overhead expenses. UMCE youth donated their time at the Youth Café. Total café earnings were distributed between 48-49 vendors represented at the fair. We were second in the number of volunteers. Donations at the Alternative Christmas Fair held here at our church totaled just under \$4,000.

In the past, we've had "Missions Moments" on Communion Sunday during each worship service and would be a good idea to start up again to keep everyone informed and perhaps gain more volunteers. This is okay with Russell.

ECho: John Olson

John thanked JoAnn Vogt for all the time she has donated over the years on the ECho Executive Board. John will now take her place.

Flood Buckets

UMCE is part of the circuit for adding certain items to the buckets. Some churches were not as faithful as UMCE and some required items are missing. The First Methodist Church in Golden will add their items and the buckets will then go to the UMCOR facility in Salt Lake City for storage until needed.

Worship: JoAnn Vogt

It's almost Easter! Everything is complete: bulletins are ordered and Sandy is ready with the music.

United Methodist Men: Glenn Stoll

We have 15-20 men participating. We're planning a Mothers' Day Brunch on Mothers' Day Sunday. For 2017, UMM donated a total of \$1,100.

Church and Society

For the purpose of educating the congregation in Church and Society vs. Inclusive Task Force, four programs are currently planned—three in February.

Dave adjourned the meeting and Joyce Snapp closed with prayer.

Submitted by Janice Vickery (substitute minute taker)

Additional Items of Business:**Closing with Prayer:**