Congregational United Church of Christ

Ministry Council Minutes for August 1, 2024

Present: Pastor Rob, Moderator: Scott Olson, Ministry of Stewardship: Jeff Nichols, Council Secretary: Jenn Abing, Ministry of Faith Development: Dawn Welling, Ministry of Service: Mary Janness. Ministry of Spiritual Life: Terri Flesburg. Members at Large: Sue Dollhopf, and Connie Ragazzi. Vice Moderator: Signa Meyers

Scott Olson opened the meeting; Pastor Rob presented the opening prayer.

Reports from the ministries were received via email prior to the meeting. The minutes from the June meeting were approved. Joy and Concerns were shared.

Updates from the Ministries:

***Ministry of Spiritual Life: Terri Flesburg**

*Next meeting September 15th after worship
*Guest Information Cards – in the pews. Do we want to continue to have them and if so, they need to be updated. Discussion was that Pastor Rob likes them and will work with the Ministry of Spiritual Life on it. Prayer Cards – suggestion, maybe put a different color rather than blue so that it's easier to read.
*Outdoor worships:
First one was cancelled due to weather
Second one was a beautiful day and served ice cream afterwards
*August 18 – Pet Blessing
*Communion – Sunday, August 4 – Sue is preparing. Choir will be singing. Youth will be assisting Pastor Rob and will be handing the elements to the Ushers.

***Ministry of Service: Mary Janness**

*Meeting in September – date to be announced
*Community Table – August 20th – Walking Tacos will be the meal and is posted in the hallway and they are securing volunteers

***Marketing & Communication: Signa Meyers**

*Could we do an Open House – meet the new Pastor, tour the building – maybe sometime in September or October.
*2027 would possibly be the year of Habitat House 401.
*Pet Blessing August 18th – Pat Mahoney will be our official photographer for the pets and we'll post pictures
*Live Nativity – December 6th

***Ministry of Faith Development: Dawn Welling**

*Had a meeting July 31st
*Was the church been approached for Porch-Pallozza? The thought was perhaps our Ministry could use this as a fundraising opportunity.
*Added 2 new members to our Ministry – Sashay and Paige
*Camp was cancelled this week due to Covid – we'll be receiving a refund.
*Take the TV out of the former Nursery Room #2
*T-shirts had a long discussion about this. Talked about having a Youth Lock-In that Paige will work on this. Possibly create a t-shirt logo etc….
*Confirmation Class this year – August 11th after church
*Teacher Training – August 18th
*First day of Sunday School – September 8th
*Rally Day – September 15th – Pancake Breakfast before church. Paige is taking the lead on this.
*Bible Sunday – October 20
*UNICEF Halloween Party – October 23rd following worship
*Christmas Program – December 8th - Sherri Jischke
***DISCUSSIONS brought to Council:** Thanksgiving Meal, Giving Tree and Souper Bowl of Caring are activities/events that we'd like other interested parties to take over as they no longer really fall under MoFD as they perhaps once did. Originally, these events were soley run by the Sunday School and youth, however, they've now become more congregational based. Example: Thanksgiving Meal originally started with Kris and was simply a basket of non-perishable food items that each Sunday School class was responsible to bring specific items. On the last day of donating; the Sunday School came together and assembled the "baskets" to be given to those in our congregation that were in need and/or were homebound. It has since changed to the congregation donating items and funds with a multi-generational group of individuals coming together at the church to cook and distribute a wonderful Thanksgiving meal to others. This is sensational; just not an event that MoFD is an overseer of. Such is the same with the Giving Tree – this is an event that originally the Sunday School brought in gifts and the older ones went shopping for; however, over the past few years, the congregation brought in gifts and Alanna did the shopping and dropping off of the presents. Again; this event has importance, just no longer needs to be overseen by MoFD. Souper Bowl of Caring has lost it's shine. This is an event that on the day of the Super Bowl, the congregation is encouraged to bring in Cans of Soup for a local pantry. If anyone would be interested in taking this event over that would be great.
*It's important to note that the main reason MoFD is looking to reduce some of our activities we sponsor is that Alanna is only allowed a certain number of hours; we need to take a hard look at what our Ministry can do and be effective with not only Alanna's time but also making an impact on the whole youth of our church from the "littles" up to the High School age.
*Next meeting is Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at El Azteca, Neenah

***Ministry of Stewardship: Jeff Nichols**

*Had a meeting July 23rd]
*William Heckroct Scholarship Fund current balance $663,075.
*Still running a positive balance at the end of June; which is great!
*Use the closing money of the William Heckroct Trust which resulted in approximately $5000; the plan is to utilize this monies towards the Nature area of the labyrinth.
We need to have the pipes replaced and sealed in the crawl space, currently it's a $40,000 expense estimate.

*Solar Panels estimate currently would be about $100,000; it would take approximately 10 years to pay that back and see a profit.
*Need to have some sidewalk replaced; trying to find a company to come and give an estimate.
*LakeEdge, hasn't received the signed agreement and their insurance. The Board met on Monday, July 29th.
*If you haven't checked out the updates in the Pastor's Office; take a look! Next will be Alanna's office and then Melanie's office.
*Need to start thinking about the Fall Stewardship Campaign.
*Thoughts of a Legacy policy for Trusts to go towards Habitat for Humanity
*Next meeting is August 27th at 6:30pm

***Pastor's Updates:**

*Motto for church – you look at the oldest and the youngest and the middle takes care of the rest.
*Starting home visits next week.
*The more communication you give Pastor Rob the better. 😊

***Council Notes:**

*New Name tags – discussion for placing a sticker on the back of the tags that state, that the magnets could cause effects if you have a health issue.
*August 4 - Pastor Rob's first Sunday in worship
*Each ministry must submit a monthly report per our by-laws; even if you don't meet. Just highlight what's going on in your ministry
*Service Sunday – looking ahead how can we get more youth and families to participate? Perhaps asking that age group what would interest them to attend.

Calendar Review:

August 11 – Book Club
August 17 – Dolores Gear Funeral – service at 11am with luncheon following
August 18 – Outdoor worship – Pet Blessing
August 20 – Community Table

SEPTEMBER MISSION MOMENT: Kids Kart
September 2 – Labor Day
September 8 – First day of Sunday School
September 5 – Council Meeting
September 15 – Rally Day – Breakfast before worship

October 3 – Council Meeting
October 6 - CROP Walk following worship
October 13 – Set up the Veterans Tree
October 14 – Columbus Day
October 27 – All Saints Day Service
October 27 – UNICEF Halloween Party after worship

November 7 – Council Meeting
November 11 – Veterans Tree
November 24 – Hanging of the greens
November 27 – Thanksgiving Meal
November28 - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER MISSION MOMENT: Christmas Fund
December 5 – Council Meeting
December -- Live Nativity
December 8 – Children's Christmas Program
December 15 – Blue Christmas 3 pm
December 24 – Christmas Eve – 2 Services – 4 pm and 11 pm
December 25 - Christmas

January 2 – Council Meeting
January 5 – Taking down of the greens
January -- Budget Hearings

February 2 – Annual Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Abing

Next Meeting: September 5, 2024, at 6:30 pm