

**HAMDEN PLAINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 27 AT 7PM VIA ZOOM**

MEMBER PRESENT: Pastor Jeremiah, Morgen Campbell, Megan Malanson, Nancy Estes, Sheldon Campbell, Kirby Stafford, Lisa Collins, Holly O'Brien, Krystal Ritchie, George Joseph, Lois Fucci, Randi Harrell, Perjah Delgado

OPENING PRAYER: Marty Hartog

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Lois made a motion and Holly seconded the motion to approve the Church Council meeting minutes from September 2021 (Church Council Meeting) and November 2021 (Church Conference). The minutes were approved.

VERBAL REPORT SUMMARY FROM ALL COMMITTEES:

Administrative Team: Marty thanked Portia for serving as our Treasurer in 2021 and Randi for stepping up to serve in 2022. People's Bank Accounts: Checking Account (\$2163.64), Trustees Account (\$9608.72) and Business Advantage Account (\$25,002.89). If the checking account goes below \$5,000 then money will be taken from the Business Advantage Account. We had a successful year for tithes and offering. In 2021, we had \$120,000 from tithes which was above what was expected. With the pastoral transition there were improvements to the Parish House and the parking lot was repaved. Those were expenses that weren't budgeted. All the apportionments have been paid. Marty is working with Randi to create and maintain a spreadsheet to monitor how much is being spent out of each line item. The Trustees has approved a contract for the sanctuary (plaster repair, painting and lights) if the NYAC conference releases \$20,000 to help fully fund the project along with a Capital Campaign by HPUMC. Marty was told that the work would take about two weeks to complete.

Leadership Team: George is the new Leadership Team Chair. Lois Fucci and Kersten Moore finished their term. Margaret Turner and George Joseph have joined the team. Dunn Pearson has been hired as the Music Minister, effective January 1, 2022. Bancroft Nicholson Sr. is no longer our Sexton, effective December 31, 2021. George has talked to Marty about short term solutions to clean the church until a Sexton is found.

Christian Education: Sunday School is back on ZOOM and will be online at least through February. There are requests for parents to do ZOOM and in person. It may be needed to have teachers lead an online class and another set to lead the in person class. The Little Free Library is still going strong. There haven't been a lot of book donations but they have enough to last until spring. They don't know if VBS will be able to be held this year.

Congregational Care: It continues to contact homebound or college age parishioners. The last meeting was in September. Contacts include bi-monthly phone calls, birthday cards, holiday cards and food donation. On occasion, rides to appointments are given. The team meets twice a year so a February meeting will be held, if it can be held in person. Nancy Estes was able to track down contact information for Sandy Maynard.

Missions: \$550 came in for Cans for the Congo which was the highest amount they have ever gotten. Dinner for a Dollar averages about 40 people Saturday nights. More people are getting involved and Charlotte set up teams for Cooking and Serving.

Worship: When Pastor Jeremiah was sick, Terri, Sheldon, Nancy Estes and George did a great job with producing the services and Holly thanked them for their hard work.

Church Reopening: We are still worshipping online. Case rates are coming down and we are still about three weeks before we are out of the red. Sheldon hasn't seen any guidance from the conference about returning to indoor worship. The last word from the bishop was that it was up to each church but he recommended that we stay closed until the end of January. Morgen would like the Reopening Team to meet before we open again since we have virtual worship. Sheldon said they would be willing to meet with an invitation from the Worship Team. Holly said that they are waiting for updated guidance from Bishop Bickerton and then she will reach out to the Reopening Team to set up a meeting.

Prayer Team: The Prayer Team has five people meeting on Wednesdays. There is a great spiritual energy in the room. Lois encouraged people to stop in to the Prayer Room when they can.

Women's Group: It is a Fellowship Based group and they are waiting to meet again when it can be in person.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Campaign was held in the fall. Amount pledged was \$68,925.00 which is down from previous years and a lot of pledge cards weren't turned in.

Membership: Nancy provided a list of 46 names suggested for removal from our Membership Roll. Nancy's guidelines was that they didn't participate for Gifts, Talent or Treasure for about 3 years. Nancy Estes reached out to Mary Bales who was the previous Membership Secretary. The process is that a letter will be sent out asking if they want to remain a member of the church. If there is no response after 30 days, another letter will be sent out. A third and final letter will be sent out. This list will be reviewed and voted on at the next Church Council meeting. There are 153 members on our membership roll.

Book of Remembrance: The Book of Remembrance purchased two chairs for the narthex. Lois stated that if any committee chairs need something purchased for the church, they can make a request since there is still some money.

NEW BUSINESS:

As Administrative Team Chair, Marty has been acting as Finance Chair and Trustees Chair. Pastor Jeremiah and Marty Hartog have discussed splitting it back into two roles to have a Finance Chair and Trustees Chair. They would still continue meeting as Administrative Team but the work would be delegated between two people. This will be voted on at the next Church Council meeting.

George Joseph has signed up to be the Pumpkin Patch Co-Chair with Nancy Estes. Megan will provide him with the information needed.

CLOSING PRAYER: Sheldon Campbell