

2/26/15 Minutes -- Strategic Leadership Council

St. John United Church of Christ

Meeting duration: 6:37 - 8:57 pm

Attending: Tim Smith, Stan Bowling, Mitch Leigh, Melissa Stephens, Keith Haithcock, Sandy Kerlin

Meeting opened with a prayer and meditation by Tim Smith. All read the St. John Vision and Mission.

Consensus Items Approved: 1/22/14 SLC minutes, January 2014 Financial Secretary's report, Construction report, 2/26/15 SLC agenda.

Generative Discussion:

- **OMG/SLC** – Follow-up discussion on Senior/Youth Center. No one from OMG was present for this discussion. It will be put on the March agenda.

ACTION: Tim will reach out to OMG

Proposals, Presentations, Planning

- **Calendar change:** June SLC meeting bumps up against Synod. Theo, Tim and Keith are going. SLC agreed to move June meeting to one week earlier, June 18.
- **Room Storage Use Proposal** – Pastor Keith provided a list of items and their intended closet for storage.

Additional work to prepare building:

- Clean building
 - Install shelves for janitorial supplies in the boiler room.
 - It is recommended that the Choir take the lead on obtaining an electric piano for the choir practice room.
 - Move air conditioner from Keith's office to the choir practice room. It will also function as a volunteer work space.
 - Develop a plan for saving and archiving our historical items and images.
 - Consider how to display the historic altar, chair, and pulpit currently in Fellowship Hall
 - Store wheelchair and walker in 1st floor storage for ready access
- **Labyrinth Project** – A labyrinth is an ancient meditation tool used in the Christian church to represent one's faith journey. Five congregations are invested in creating a 30' by 30' labyrinth painted on canvas-like fabric: Faith UCC, St. John UCC, St. John's UCC, Christ UCC, and St. Paul UCC. The Labyrinth will travel around to all these churches, then be available on an as needed basis. It will be in the Fellowship Hall at St. John on Good Friday and Saturday, 4/3 and 4/4. Christ Church will host a workshop on 3/28 to teach people how to use it.

- Keith presented the idea of painting one on the floor in the Fellowship Hall because the floor will need to be “finished” in some way. The SLC considered the idea and will observe how the labyrinth is used by our congregation to determine if we want one of our own.
- **Youth Advisory Board (YAB) for the Illumination Youth Group:** This is Keith’s 6th year working with YAB. It is a fragile but meaningful ministry; fragile because the attendance is unpredictable, but meaningful to the students and leaders. The YAB has 6 applicants for the Director position. They have selected 3 of them for interview. Dr. Daniel Meister, pastor at St. John's UCC in Newport, is not attending YAB meetings.

Follow-up/Ongoing Items

- **Construction**
 - The hold up with Duke seems to be an issue for which neither Hermes nor Duke is taking responsibility.
 - The cleaning is an expensive issue. Also, there has been damage from the construction traffic on the building (treads on steps, entry mats) that wasn’t expected. The original bid needs to be reviewed for what cleaning was promised and who is responsible for damages.
 - 88% of the project has been invoiced
 - Recruit people from the membership to clean after Hermes completes contracted project. Provide food for the members that clean

ACTION: Tim will contact Mary Ann about original contract.

ACTION: Cleaning parties: 3/19 from 6-9 pm, 3/20 from 6-9 pm, 3/21 from 8 am-noon

ACTION: Keith and Melissa will work together to create the punch list.

ACTION: Ask Pat and Charles to do the food.

ACTION: Mitch is going to see who we might talk with at Duke to get things moving, if helpful. Sandy will look for a political ally to get the application moving.

- **Finances:** Investments - Dean is within days of having the investment done. He needs minutes that authorize him to act as the agent for the Church.

ACTION: Melissa will write the letter to Bank of Kentucky

- **Credit card:** Current challenges with credit card: available credit is low, only one card, no benefits in cash back bonuses. The Council authorized Mitch to get another credit card from another bank that would have a higher credit limit, be issued to multiple people, provided individual bills for each user, and provide incentives.

- **Fiscal picture:** The Church is running behind in budget and expenses. There is growing concern that our current giving patterns are not providing a sustainable future. The congregation needs to hear this before Easter.

ACTION: Tim will write about money, yet again, for the newsletter.

- **Nominating Committee:** The committee has been put in place, Sue Jelinek, Melissa Stephens, and Mitch Leigh, and is busy having the conversations to fill vacancies in the

SLC for FY16.

- **Synod:** There is an article in the newsletter each week. A special offering will be taken. We should potentially have conversations with other churches in our neighborhood to see who may be going. We need to encourage our membership to attend and perhaps volunteer. The smallest commitment of attending for just a Saturday would even be a good thing. Tim is willing to make announcements in the worship service.

ACTION: Keith may see if getting a bus is a possibility.

Follow-up/Ongoing Items

- Stewardship
- Performance measurements

Next Meeting is 3/26/15. Meditation: Sandy Kerlin. SLC meetings are open and welcome to all.

Adjournment: Move to adjourn. Sandy moved, Stan seconded. Motion passed.

Closing prayer led by Tim Smith.

Minutes recorded by: Melissa Stephens, SLC President-Elect, Acting Recording Secretary