

3/26/15 Minutes -- Strategic Leadership Council

St. John United Church of Christ

Meeting duration: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Attending: Tim Smith (chair), Stan Bowling, Sandy Kerlin, Melissa Stephens, Mitch Leigh, Theo Baldwin, Pastor Keith Haithcock

Guest: Donna Hoffman

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

Consensus Items Approved: 2/26/15 SLC minutes, 3/26/15 Agenda, February 2014 Financial Secretary's report, Construction update (Mary Ann)

Generative Discussion

Sanctuary & Accessible Lobby: next steps and process

- Sandy has a comprehensive list of all facility improvement projects that have been identified.
- Priority is flooring in sanctuary and accessible lobby. Sanctuary doors (security) and updated outside church sign are also of high interest.
- For flooring, goal is to find a temporary solution that fits in with long-term desired solution.
- ACTION: Sandy will contact an interior designer to visit and suggest options/pricing for flooring and doors, and to connect us with a professional to assist with acoustical concerns. Will report back at April SLC meeting.
- The new SLC membership (with Melissa as chair) will have the long-term solution on its agenda. Need further discussion on how the long-term solutions fit into a future capital campaign.

Key distribution and card access

- Discussion on key distribution, now that card swipe at accessible lobby is active.
- Accessible lobby door is the primary entrance.
- As a transition, key cards will be distributed to members of SLC and OMG, and all who have keys assigned will retain these. ACTION: Pastor will distribute cards to these individuals.
- Pastor will be responsible for issuing key cards, through administrative assistant.
- SLC will revisit keys and key cards at the June SLC meeting.

Construction update, roof repair (per report from Mary Ann Reilly)

- Work continues on installation of the new utility pole in the parking lot space.
- Mary Ann will be contacting Imbus regarding repair of ridge roof tiles above the parking lot entry.

Proposals, Presentations, Planning

Little League Team Sponsorship

- \$175 sponsorship approved by electronic vote. ACTION: Mitch will send the sponsorship check.

UCC FACT Survey

- All UCC churches (Pastor, President, or designee) are being asked to complete this by March 31.
- ACTION: Tim will complete.

2016 FY Budget, Stewardship, Related Finances

- Dean Griffith plans to present a budget at the April SLC meeting.
- Some new costs anticipated in the budget: loan payments outside of income, increased energy

costs (due to elevator, air conditioning), increased maintenance and utility bills (due to possible additional building use), annual elevator inspection, added phone line for elevator, replacement copier.

- Spring stewardship campaign will take place in May. Dean will bring in Ryan Byers (Christ Church, Ft Thomas) for expert assistance on stewardship.

Fellowship Hall Naming

- SLC reviewed list of name suggestions for the hall and the stage. Further discussion and decision tabled until April meeting.

Easter outreach

- Discussion on outdoor music outreach at selected Sunday services, such as Easter. ACTION: SLC members in the choir will bring this idea forward for discussion by entire choir.

Follow-up / Ongoing Items

Nominating Committee

- Nominees for President-Elect, Treasurer, and one At-Large Member were discussed.
- Final slate will be presented at April SLC meeting.

Transition for new SLC members

- To make a smoother transition, invite nominees to attend June SLC meeting and SLC retreat.
- Pastor request for usable online calendar solution, to assist with planning by SLC and church office. Current configuration does not allow for full workflow and website integration. ACTION: Mitch will investigate options, including configurations at other churches.
- ACTION: Sandy will review past minutes and Prevues to create a timeline of when certain events and actions are completed by SLC members.

Financial Forecast

- Tim distributed a Financial Forecast report, 8-month actual + 4-month forecast.
- Low response from recent giving letters.
- Deficit for 8-month (actual) + 4-month (projected) totals -\$44,068. At this rate, our available reserve funds to cover a deficit will be depleted within two years.
- Compared to last year, we are ahead with respect to giving. However, giving is not keeping pace with the current MMAP budget approved by the congregation.
- Discussion ensued on engaging congregation and building passion, motivation, and commitment. Agreement that we are in a true financial crisis, and that the church as it is now must change.
- SLC discuss next steps, along with budget discussion, at the April SLC meeting.

Other SLC agenda items for April

- Will include discussion on celebration of elevator & air conditioning.

Pastor's updates

- Illumination Youth Ministries update: Youth Advisory Board continues discussions with St. John's UCC, Newport.
- Covenant membership class update: 9 people are participating.
- Mitch updated SLC on a recent issue with Paycor affecting Pastor Keith's payroll deduction toward his flexible spending account. This issue has been remedied.

Next Meeting is 4/23/15. Meditation: Mitch Leigh. Melissa will serve as Chair in Tim's absence.

SLC meetings are open and welcome to all.

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

Closing prayer led by Tim Smith

Minutes recorded by: Theo Baldwin, SLC Secretary