

**CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
**December 12, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

Our Mission: “Inviting all to become disciples of Jesus Christ serving Carlisle and beyond.”

Present: Gary Ankabrandt, Jeff Barnes, Kathy Charette, Ron Chipriano, Mira Hewett, Kerm Leitner, Tracy Sands, Jim VanZandt, Lois Weibley and Bill Yufer. Absent: Stephanie Peffer. Guests: Marian Gibble and John Seaton.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Kerm Leitner, chair, following an Executive Session.
- II. Gary Ankabrandt led the meeting with a handout, “Words of Wisdom” and prayer.
- III. Moments with the Pastors
  - A. Pastor Jim noted that witnessing the ceremony of the purchase of the Smith Farm for our new church facility confirms that he is so lucky being a part of CUMC. He stated being at CUMC is truly a blessing.
  - B. Pastor Jim shared that there is a new way that philanthropic organizations look at fundraising and that is by asking boldly.
  - C. The Celebration Services on March 26 will be conducted at all three services with special Gatherings following those services, and then activities will be held in the afternoon at the Spring Garden Campus.
  - D. Pastor Mira distributed a pamphlet, “Your Money into God’s Ministry,” which is the narrative budget for 2017. This will accompany the 2016 statements of giving that are sent out in January.
  - E. Alternative Christmas gifts have totaled over \$5,000 to date.
- IV. Announcements
  - A. This being the last Leadership Council meeting of 2016, Kerm thanked and praised Gary Ankabrandt, Kathy Charette and Lois Weibley for their service as Leadership Council members for the past 3 ¾ years. “CUMC could not have been blessed with three better LC representatives at a more critically important time in our church’s brief history. We will greatly miss each of you, ask that you continue to pray for us daily and look forward to your continued presence at CUMC.” Their terms of service will end on December 31, 2016. Kerm thanked Gary for his nice gift, “Words of Wisdom,” given to each LC member and used as his devotional earlier.
  - B. REMINDER: A Consecration Service will be held at the Spring Garden Campus (formerly Smith Farm) on December 18, 2016 at 3:00pm. Carpooling is encouraged. Those drivers with special CUMC parking placards or handicapped placards will be directed to park on property closest to the location of the service. Others will be directed to street parking. The service will be approximately twenty minutes in length. All are encouraged to attend this very first service at our new site.

## V. Finance Report

- A. Tracy commended the work done by the LC Stewardship Team on developing videos presented during worship service during the last two Sundays and thanked Pastor Jim for stressing the importance of purposeful giving. Tracy felt this has helped our bottom line at this time and shared some to-the-minute financial figures.
- B. Kathy Charette reviewed the current year's revenue and expenses. Giving was less in November than in the past years. We could very well have a \$40,000 - \$60,000 deficit at the end of the year, unless there are some very generous tithes and offerings given prior to January 1, 2017.

## VI. Old Business

- A. The next Church Hall Meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2017. The council discussed whether we wanted to have the meeting in February but decided to keep the meeting as scheduled on March 5, 2017. March 5 will provide the architect a little more time to prepare something which possibly could be shared by Jeff at that time.
- B. At the Consecration Service on December 18, 2016 the LC and pastors will speak (without amplifier), and two children will assist in the service. Kerm requested LC members be present at the property by 1:30pm to assist with parking. Jeff noted that our farmer planted winter wheat on the property, and Jeff informed him that some of the crop may be destroyed by trampling at the Consecration Service and later by the heavy equipment which will be used at the site in the very near future.
- C. John Shorb provided Kerm with the Emergency Response Guide for review by the council. Kathy will edit his copy and then Ron, Mira and Kerm will conduct a final review before Rhonda prepares it for publication. Gary noted that the Conference would like a copy for distribution to interested congregations.

## VII. New Business

- A. The Stewardship Team has met twice. Tracy noted the Team began a Generosity Planner that will be used to thank people for giving and requesting new and increased giving. Tracy and Mira will be looking at various online giving providers and selecting two finalists for a presentation from which one will be selected by a committee consisting of them and David Price. It is hoped that this will be completed before the Capital Campaign begins.
- B. SERVE CUMC will be starting a pilot program called Homelessness to Home (HTH) with Art and Cindy Kunst as the pilot program's leader. The goal ultimately is for homeless individuals to become self-sufficient and help those who are moving from homelessness into first-time homes.
  - 1. The Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (CCHRA), Special Needs Department, provides housing for homeless families and individuals. CUMC is partnering with CCHRA to assist clients after they are ready to move into a rental.
  - 2. CUMC's mission is to provide these families and individuals baskets with things needed to ensure a good start towards self-sufficiency: bedding, kitchen and bathroom items, cleaning supplies and other assorted items essential to getting started. Total cost of these items is approximately \$150 per family.

3. \$1,000 in funds designated through SERVE envelopes was donated in the Fall of 2016 and is available to kick off the program.
  4. CUMC will be the hub of donated gifts and will use one storage room at the CUMC Annex for supplies.
  5. The families and individuals will be directed to New Digs Ministry, Inc. in Mechanicsburg for furniture.
  6. SERVE leaders would seek donations from others in our community to help defray the cost of the baskets (\$150 per gift basket per family).
  7. At the time the families and individuals pick up their baskets at the Annex, they will receive a Welcome packet inviting them to our church.
  8. This is a pilot program and requires four volunteers.
- C. GROW Children and Youth: Little Lights Learning Center director, Alison Mellott, will be resigning after five years. The open position is being advertised. Alison will stay through the end of January to transition the new person. Staff and families were notified last week. Alison was given a bouquet of flowers by Gary at Friday's Christmas program.
- D. Secretary for LC: Following a motion by Bill Yufer and a second by Ron Chipriano, the Leadership Council unanimously approved Tracy Sands as Secretary of the Leadership Council for 2017. Kerm Leitner (chair) and Ron Chipriano (vice-chair) will complete the second year of their two-year terms in 2017.

#### VIII. Around the Table

- A. Jeff Barnes:
1. Former LC members can run but cannot hide! Jeff thanked Gary, Kathy and Lois for their commitment to LC.
  2. Jeff was advised that Rillo's is back on the market. He contacted their real estate agent to remind them we are interested in easement through their property to our property.
- B. Lois Weibley: Being a LC member was a pleasure and a learning process and a joy. She thanked everyone for all their help.
- C. Tracy Sands: Tracy made a suggestion that CUMC consider having a Live Nativity since we now will have the parking and land at the Spring Garden Campus. She believes it would be a blessing to the community.
- D. Christina Benson: Greetings.
- E. Pastor Jim:
1. Thanks to Gary, Kathy and Lois for their commitment to LC.
  2. Thanks to John Seaton for his faithful service and faithful attendance as a lay person at the LC Open Sessions.
- F. Pastor Mira: Thanks to GROW Adults for taking care of the Angel gifts; 160 angel gifts were collected. Our congregation has been very generous again in supplying these gifts.
- G. Kerm: Thanked everyone for being here today and for all the work done during the year. Today was historical because of the settlement this afternoon. Truly an amazing day!

IX. The open session was adjourned at 6:45pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2017 – Executive Session, 5:00pm and Open Session at 5:30pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Gible, Recording Secretary