

NEUMC Church Council Planning Session

MINUTES

August 26, 2018

4:00 p.m.

I. Prayer & Devotional

Psalm 37:3-5 (MEV) Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and practice faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass.

How do we as a church report to unexpected, unforeseen or difficult situations. How are we responding to the financial challenges facing our congregation? We have to see out God's purpose/plan and trust him to bring it to us. Be in prayer over how we respond to God's call to NEUMC.

II. Pastor's Opening remarks

Pastor Mac indicated that we will be hosting the Charge Conference on October 16, 2018 (Tuesday) at 6:30pm with Journey. We will have communion as part of Charge Conference and snacks for fellowship after meeting. All leaders and members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Pastor Mac has been working with the Witness team on visitors to see what is working and how we extend hospitality. Everyone is encouraged to smile, say hello and introduce yourself along with introducing visitors to other members. If you find out something about a visitor, please text or email Pastor Mac as that helps him better communicate with them later.

A. Safe Sanctuary review – The policy was provided to all attendees for review. It will be approved at a called meeting prior to the Charge Conference. Please contact the church office if you need a copy.

III. Ministry Team Update

A. Nurture – Justin Nutter provided an update regarding the four focus areas of nurture this year. The Fellowship lunches have gone well and will be continued in some form. PLACE ministry will be starting soon with members of Nurture helping facilitate that process.

A new proposal is for a setting up an "I-Care" type family group structure for members that would be diverse. The family groups would be small groups that would focus on care of each other. As new members join the group may divide to keep the numbers manageable. There would be different groups in the church. Justin will be working with Pastor Mac and Bonnie to get a core team together for a proposal of how to get started by the first of 2019.

B. Outreach – Linda Wargel provided an update that members from church are helping serve meals with the Salvation Army. The Children’s Garden bags should be out in October. There will be a Kairos walk which will need cookies and salty treats donated. We will be participating again with the Angel Tree.

C. Witness – William Nelson provided an update about the Pumpkin Patch project. There will be 5 classes with a total of approximately 1—children participating in rotations. This will be during the first week of October. Please be on the look out for ways to help with this project.

D. Prayer – Nikki Shaffner provided an update about the need for prayer room volunteers for the 11am service and we will provide more information on how it works to get new participants. We will have an Advent devotional guide so please be thinking of an idea to share. The church is looking at potentially updating the sound in the prayer room at some point to help with getting helpers.

E. Children & Youth – Bonnie provided a report that youth will be starting back on Sundays at 6pm and Wednesdays at 6:30pm. GLOW for the elementary age children will continue into the Fall. We will keep two elementary age Sunday School classes until the size requires us to have three.

i. Fall events update – PUMPKINS will be here September 29. Please be ready to help with the Patch.

ii. Confirmation – will start Sunday September 8 for all middle school and high school students.

III. Work Group Update

A. Finance

i. Debt reduction – Weston Cheatham reported on the Finance Committee’s recommendation for a debt reduction program. They will be asking members to volunteer time to help Trustees and others with physical needs around the church going forward. In addition, they will be asking that members seek to give 10% more as non designated gifts to help. Each ministry team area will be tasked with coming up with a “wish list” of the things we could do without the burden of debt.

ii. Generosity Challenge – look out soon for information on our generosity and “stewardship” campaign.

B. Trustees – Larry Wargel provided a report that the Trustees are in maintenance mode and that the estimate for the driveway and parking lot is approximately \$150,000. We will also tie into the sewer system next year. The Trustees will work with the UMM about getting help around the church on projects as needed.

C. SPRC – Pastor Mac reported that the SPRC will be meeting to approve the necessary budget items needed for Charge Conference prior to that date.

IV. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

V. New Business – It was discussed that one service Sundays are important to the healthy life of NEUMC. It allows us to worship together and focus on our strengths as a church family like our music. It is important that the service be held at the same time each time with enough publicity to ensure everyone knows what is happening. As leaders please encourage members to attend and participate in these services.

VI. Praise Reports & Closing Prayer – Pastor Mac closed out the meeting with prayer.

REMINDERS:

We will have a called church council meeting to approve the Safe Sanctuary policy and budget information necessary for Charge Conference prior to October 16, 2018. This called meeting will take place immediately after the second service when scheduled. Thank you for being flexible as we will need to have a short meeting to approve the required items to be prepared for Charge Conference.

*****All team leaders should have an annual report to Blakely Cahoon for inclusion in the church's report at Charge Conference by October 1, 2018. Please email the reports or leave them in the church office.**

Our regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 4, 2018 at 4:00pm

Meeting Attendees:

Blakely Cahoon, Linda Wargel, Larry Wargel, Merrill Hynds, Justin Nutter, Jen Rogers, Weston Cheatham, Nikki Shaffner, Pastor Mac Kinnett, Sean Riley, Bonnie, Riley, William Nelson.