

# Sharon Center UMC All Church Meeting Minutes

## May 8, 2019

### LIVING OUR MISSION

Opening: Pastor Jane called the meeting to order with prayer. 24 were present.

#### 1. Trustee Update: (Richard & Trustees)

- ◆ Introduction of Trustees Serving Our Church With Their Skills: Trustees are: Richard Frost, Randy Raw, George Wemmer, Scott Danko, Nikki Fox, with Pastor Jane attending all meetings.
- ◆ Parsonage Update: Parsonage is rented—a single older gentleman with no pets and a good job. He signed a 14 month contract. The parsonage was left in good shape by previous tenants. Parsonage may need a new roof eventually but is otherwise in very good condition.
- ◆ Building and Grounds Update: There was a discussion about adding one or two more handicap spaces on the most southeast part of the paved driveway. If so trustees will explore using signs that can fold up or down as needed for handicap access notification. Gravel will be added to the driveway, and they will explore the possibility of paving the part of the rear entrance driveway closest to the church at some point. The leak in the steeple which will be addressed by a professional installation of steel brackets on the beams. Electrical issues addressed: porch lights have been replaced, the post light now has an LED, upstairs fixture is fixed, and an LED light is installed at the rear of the parking lot. Trustees need some help to clean up the parking lot—overhanging branches, etc., and to paint the back corner wall and steps. Charlie asked if it would be advisable to replace the 30 year old furnace this summer. Trustees will explore that option.

#### 2. Financial Snapshot of Our Church: (Charlie, Eunice)

- ◆ Current Look at Financial Health: Very positive due to the pastor not requiring the parsonage or insurance, allowing the church to instead rent the parsonage. Since renting the parsonage, the Admin Board each quarter takes any excess funds above 6 months operating expenses and transfers the excess to replenish the Building Fund. Currently it appears that a significant amount can be transferred again in June.
- ◆ Eunice reported that all conference apportionments are paid at 100%.
- ◆ Possibilities For The Future and Our Mission: With the church being in good financial health, we can support more outreach to the community and beyond, so missions projects can be supported much more than in past years.
- ◆ Current Admin Board members serving: Elaine Mravetz, Charlie Tramel, Eunice Merritt, Bill Baldwin, Dan Farnsworth, Pastor Jane.

#### 3. Revisiting the 3 Legged Stool of Service, Spirituality, and Prayer—How We Have Lived Our Mission in 2018: (Elaine, Nancy Vogel, Nancy Baldwin, Millie, Pastor Jane)

- ◆ Serving the Local Community, Regional Community, and Global Community: Elaine shared over 24 outreach and missions efforts that over 30% of our church members have been involved in during 2018. 68% of our efforts have been for local missions / outreach projects. 44% were regional outreach efforts that minister to Medina and surrounding counties, and 16% were global efforts that include 100% payment of all of our apportionments to East Ohio Conference for many UMC global and national missions projects.
- ◆ Spirituality: We have 5 small group Bible studies for children and for adults that are largely laity led, with one of these being a new Thursday a.m. offering. In addition we have 3 choirs (Adult, Children's, Bell) that do music ministry as well as special music during the year. Bell choir is new this year. VBS and Lunch bunch continue as active small groups. This efforts in ministry and spirituality involve about 24% of our congregation.
- ◆ Prayer: We engage in prayer as a congregation on Sundays, and as individuals involved in the Prayer Chain / Prayer Warriors group, and we pray prior to all meetings and small groups.

4. Revisiting the 3 legged stool of Service, Spirituality, and Prayer—Future Possibilities for Living our Mission in 2019: (Pastor Jane, and attendees to meeting)

- ◆ Increase local, regional, global outreach efforts and congregation involvement: Needs and suggestions to fill them included: A table at the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast with our church's outreach and activities info and copies of the newsletter; Flood Buckets, School Supplies, Sharon Showcase— need items for assembly and help to assemble, baked goods and help at the table in the Circle; Open M, Camp Wanake, Cups Cafe—need volunteers to help at these, donations to support, and people to clean trails at Wanake; Welcoming Visitors and Families—update the Cry Room to be welcoming, update visitor packets of info to give visitors and get visitor contact information for outreach. We are known as a welcoming church that is friendly and warm, so need to make sure that we have a place for everyone and that all ages feel welcome. Pair with another church to participate in a mission trip at least annually and maybe quarterly, explore involvement in needs like the Nehemiah Mission in Cleveland to fix houses, etc. for the needy, explore starting a Grief Support Group (John and Laurie Weiss gave good information on this and offered to lead).
- ◆ Increase vehicles for youth involvement and Christian group development: We have Confirmands who need a home for teens, so we need help to update the “teen room” upstairs and start a Youth Group, and need volunteers to help with the group. We need Sunday School Teachers for the Children's Sunday School program.
- ◆ Increase efforts in outreach to seekers and unchurched in our community: We need to be visible in the Post and other papers, have signs in front of the church for special services and times, continue our presence in the community in Halloween, Memorial Day and other efforts to reach the community and seekers, and start a Grief Support group open to anyone in the community who is struggling with grief, caregiver issues, etc.

- ◆ Increasing congregation involvement in small group spiritual growth, & prayer efforts: We need more Prayer Warriors to be on the list to pray for / with those in need of prayer. We need more vehicles for people to request prayer—Website, Facebook page, call in, etc. We are seeking laity to step forward and lead small groups or participate in one of the spiritual growth efforts that we currently have.

Elaine shared that this information will also be available at the back of the church for any who want hard copies of it.

Prayer and Closing: In closing, all present prayed the following prayer for discernment: “God, what do You have for us next? Break through into our lives and into your church. Show us the new possibilities you have for Sharon Center UMC that only You can fill. Help us to discern where your Spirit is leading, so that we may live out a new season of bearing fruit for Your Kingdom. Give us faith and courage to follow You to the mighty things we haven’t even imagined yet. Amen”

Mission of Sharon Center UMC: Sharon Center United Methodist Church is committed to building and strengthening relationships with Christ.