

Ad Council Meeting Minutes

12-7-25

Attendees: Andy Bryan, Colette Cummings, Cathy Todisman, Jerry Blackwell, Charlotte Phelps, Nancy Thompson, Rachel Ward, David Vierse, Diane Watkins, Kevin Watkins, Tim McDonough, Ray Jauregui, Rona Chandler, David Phelps, Mike Plonka

Opening

- Rachel Ward opened the meeting with discussion about today's sermon topic of way of being peace, and reflecting on how we can be peace.

Celebrations and Upcoming Events

- Build-a-Gift
- Retirement from Ad Council for Charlotte Phelps and Rona Chandler
- Thanksgiving boxes
- Pop-up café was open on Thanksgiving day (current end date for program is end of January)
- Hanging of the Greens
- New oil candles for altar and advent wreath – no more dripping wax!
- Andy took a 48-hour retreat and planned next 6-months of sermon themes
- Liner installed in the plumbing under the church
- Good music today
- Sent a check for ~\$700 to Leighton UMC
- Took in ~\$2,000 for Thanksgiving baskets which is more than was used
- Charge conference
- We have audio!
- Centenary AED class exceeded required goal of attendees and received their device.

Finance

- Expenses YTD are less than we have budgeted and giving is greater than budgeted
- Made adjustments to raise potential income for 2026 budgeting
- The shop made \$5,000 as of the end of November, which is what we anticipated for the entire year

Trustees

- Major plumbing repairs have been completed, and reviewing what it will cost to bring kitchen up to code. Will need to determine what other updates we want to make to the kitchen.
- Insurance claim – there are some questions that need follow up, but have received a check.
- Diane, Tim and Ray have been looking at contracting snow removal.
- Thanks to the Trustees team and all the work they have done with the flood remediation.
- Parsonage access – ensure people in the area are watching for any potential concerns.

Other business:

- Looking for a volunteer coordinator for Freedom School who will be at church daily during the sessions
- Technology
 - Identified the audio issue from the last couple of weeks
 - Working on adding in environment sounds from the sanctuary

Pastor's Report:

- Conversations with Carolyn Green about accessibility concerns, she has created a draft of a Sutton entrance re-configuration – more to come!
- Emergency Warming Center for St. Louis City – the city reached out to Andy (and other churches) to expand warming center options. Discussed with CUC Steering Committee at Wednesday meeting.
 - City of STL – provides supplies needed and some staffing
 - Up to 10 people
 - We need to provide staff as well
 - Bailey has written a grant for Housing for Everyone (?)
 - Would provide a paid person
 - Expenses would include additional utilities and cleaning
 - Limit to fellowship
 - 9 pm – 7 am
 - Open to all until filled or 9 pm
 - Open during Code Blue (20 degrees or 25 with precipitation)
 - Building access – fellowship hall plus 1 bathroom
 - Will need to identify a point person and volunteers that can be available when the warming center needs to be open
 - Potentially someone outside of our congregation

- Mike Plonka is willing to assist
- Police will take people to other warming centers if we are full.
- We do not have to feed people because it's a warming center, but we can (and it's part of who we are!)
- Kitchen coordinator is aware and on board
- When the city says there's a code blue, they will ask whether we can open (i.e., not required to open)
- Will partner with Maplewood Police
- Notify congregation that we are participating as a Warming Center
- Questions:
 - Confirming that the city is covering insurance
 - What security is provided
 - Do we need to store cots / supplies?
 - Will we designate whether only men or only women and children or everyone?
 - Will we have the list of warming centers, so that when we are full we can direct people to other warming centers?
 - What are criteria for continuing or discontinuing Warming Center

Action Items

- Requests for approval
 - Minutes from October meeting
 - Correction – coffee urns cost \$303.21 (not \$321)
 - Moved by Nancy Thompson, seconded by Charlotte Phelps
 - APPROVED
 - 2026 Budget as presented
 - Moved by Diane Watkins, second by Colette Cummings
 - APPROVED
 - Emergency Warming Center for City of St. Louis – requesting approval to utilize MUMC as a Warming Center, ensuring building limitations are in place, a designated volunteer coordinator is identified, an appropriate number of volunteers are secured, insurance is in place, notifying congregation, requirements for warming center in place.
 - Moved by Charlotte Phelps, seconded by Rona Chandler
 - APPROVED

Next Steps

- Upcoming meetings:

- 1/25/26 – 12:15 pm
- 2/22/26 – 12:15 pm
- 3/29/26 – 12:15 pm
- 4/26/26 – 12:15 pm

Motion to adjourn – moved by Charlotte Phelps, second by Rona Chandler. APPROVED