

MORROW MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Join ZOOM Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89008763665?pwd=bU5mdDhpQWhFeINSOCsrQVhFenhFUT09>

ZOOM Meeting ID: 890 0876 3665 Passcode: 477573
One tap mobile: +19292056099,,89008763665# US (New York)

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayer & Welcome
2. Special Charge Conference
3. Approval of Minutes of Church Council (attached)
4. Senior Pastor's Report

Statistical Report Overview

5. Associate Pastor's Report

Reopening Committee Recap
Small Groups Update

6. Setting our 2022 Goals Together for Council & by Committees

Membership * Evangelism * Discipleship

7. Christian Education Committee Report

Morrow Musical Theatre Camp

8. Morrow Memorial Preschool Report

9. Music Report

10. Global and Community Outreach

Unpacking Burma II

11. Finance Report

12. SPRC Report

13. Stewardship Report

14. Membership Report

UMC/BSA Update

FUN Committee Fellowship Hall Update

15. United Methodist Women

16. New Business

17. Adjournment

2022 Church Council Meeting Dates
Wednesdays **by ZOOM** at 7:00 p.m.

January 26

February 23

March 30

April 27

May 25

June 29

August 3 (combined July/August meeting)

September 7 (preparation for Charge Conference)

Morrow Charge Conference – Date TBD

October 26

December 7 (combined November/December meeting)

MORROW

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH

Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Opening Prayer & Welcome

- a. Pastor Janice opened the council meeting in a word of prayer.
- b. Attendance: Janice Sutton Lynn, Brenda Wheeler Ehlers, Mary Sue Sweeney Price, Andrea Wren-Hardin, Dawilla Madsen, Melinda Wilkening, Maureen Hurd Hause, Brooks Leonard, Loren Condon, Judy Rogers, Krystal Woolston, Kristen Kush, Betsey Knowles, Ayo Akinnuoye, Chris Pisciotta, Mike Hertl, Cynthia Hicks, Barbara Illingworth, Jon Simmons

2. Approval of Minutes of Church Council

- a. There was a clarification from the previous meeting: the insurer for the person who was in a car accident with the church is Geico.
- b. There was a discussion about the minutes and the accuracy from the previous meeting.
- c. Fred Profeta motioned to approve the minutes as submitted
- d. Jon Simmons seconded the motion, and with 16 yes votes, and 2 no votes, the minutes were approved.

3. Senior Pastor's Report

- a. No report this month.

4. Associate Pastor's Report

- a. We are in the midst of a lot of change
- b. Most youth have been fully vaccinated and the youth have now moved inside.
- c. We are indoors for confirmation and MYF and JYF have been meeting indoors.
- d. We did not do an overnight retreat because of COVID, but we did do two outings and will do a third this weekend. We're slowly making our way through the calendar.

5. Setting our 2022 Goals Together for Council & by Committees
 - a. We need to come together in a planning and goal sense in each of our committees to set forth and create goals for our church future.
 - b. Pastor Janice hopes our goals will encompass Membership, Evangelism, and/or Discipleship
 - c. The overarching goal is that we all want our community to thrive and grow in Christ.
 - d. Pastor Janice encouraged anyone with ideas about reaching these goals should join the team.

6. Christian Education Committee Report
 - a. No further report at this time.

7. Morrow Memorial Preschool Report
 - a. The preschool started registration November; in-house first, then open public registration.
 - b. Registration is going well and we are 65-70% full right now, ahead of where we were at this point last year.
 - c. The preschool is serving as a drop off for the SOMA Cares Coats drive. Please drop off slightly used coats you'd like to donate outside Cynthia's door.
 - d. The preschool moved back to the co-op model this year -- so far, so good.

8. Music Report
 - a. Dawilla Madsen gave the report.
 - b. Participation is increasing with more people attending choir practices.
 - c. Appealing Bells played at Thanksgiving and three more former members will join for Christmas carols.
 - d. Cherub Choir will be singing on Sunday
 - e. Youth Choir is back
 - f. Instrumentalists, Appealing Bells, Wesley, and Youth choirs will be at Christmas carols
 - g. We're excited to have the piano up in the choir where we can see it
 - h. Please keep Janet Painter in your prayers – she shattered her arm and is home recovering.

9. Global and Community Outreach

- a. This is Melinda's last meeting as Chair of the committee. We thank her for her service.
- b. We collected and made 43 Thanksgiving baskets for Family Promise.
- c. We are currently doing MEND shopping for Christmas gifts.
- d. So that we can focus on Stewardship and budget, the Burma II Sierra Leone project is not listed on Ministry Tracker for December but will be put back up in January.

10. Finance Report

- a. Our new bookkeeper, Jessica Ortiz Riddall, sent out the updated report today. Numbers are looking strong going into the new year. If you have any expenses that need to be reimbursed, please get them in now so we can close out the budget.
- b. What we have been calling the "buffer" – that money is subject to a vote by the trustees – we are within that \$50,000 for this year.
- c. This year we asked the chairs to look at their budgets and request what is typically needed from the specific individuals.
- d. Brooks motioned to approve the budget as submitted – Mary Sue Price seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

11. SPRC Report

- a. Onboarding of Jessica as bookkeeper and Hailey Kim as Office Administrator/Communications so far is going well. We're giving Hailey four months in the role to get situated and then will revisit the part-time aspect in February.
- b. Hailey's hours are 10:00am-3:00pm, Monday through Thursday.
- c. Thank you to Council for approving COLAs for 2022.
- d. Staff evaluations for Holland and Kenny are ongoing. Our goal is to complete this process by end of calendar year.

12. Stewardship Report

- a. 51 pledges have been made for 2022 with a goal of reaching 90. To date pledges total \$286,994, against a goal of \$360,000.
- b. We have five new individuals/families pledging this year.
- c. Fred Profeta will be speaking about stewardship on Sunday to the congregation.

13. Membership Report

- a. We have not had an official meeting, but here is a recap. Current work includes maintaining Ministry Tracker, completing the audit from pre-pandemic, and sending out both post cards.
- b. There is one family is interested in becoming members.
- c. Parishioner call updates:
 - i. Talked to one person who was waiting until their children were fully vaccinated to return.
 - ii. Might be worthwhile to wait until May and give people some time to get into new routines.
 - iii. Jon Simmons shared that he left voicemails for about half of his list, and only had two fairly limited conversations.
 - iv. Mary Sue Price said some of the numbers on her list were no longer in service
 - v. Please send notes if you made calls

14. Board of Trustees Report

- a. Current balances are holding at \$7.5M. As a result of market growth, the Trustees have increased monthly contributions from \$9,000 to \$10,000.
- b. A new trust fund in the works, a donation of \$100,000 on behalf of Martha Schroeder. We are waiting on all information on any purposes or restrictions in order to fully set up.
- c. Will assess the buffer going forward into the new year.
- d. The Trustees approved matching funds for the Burma II Sierra Leone project. If not matched funds should be returned to the trust.
- e. House and Grounds reported that the retaining wall has been repaired. The chapel will be painted before Christmas, following which the focus will be repairing water damage in hallways and Sanctuary.
- f. The new "FUN" (Fellowship United Network) Committee is currently gathering information to shape a vision for the new (renovated) Fellowship Hall and will be reaching out to everyone for input.
- g. Boy Scouts of America Settlement
 - i. GNJ filed a claim in the BSA bankruptcy court on behalf of all churches, including Morrow. Bankruptcy court asked all to vote to approve or reject the current reorganization plan.
 - ii. GNJ held a special group Charge Conference to authorize the Board of Trustees and the Pastor to cast the vote regarding the reorganization plan on behalf of each UM congregation.

- iii. Monday night GNJ held a conference call to discuss recommendations on the vote to accept or reject the reorganization plan. Morrow joined the call and the BOT and Pastor agreed with GNJ's recommendation to reject the plan because we do not believe the current settlement proposal met GNJ's five goals:
 - 1. The healing and support for survivors including commitment to continue to work to end abuse.
 - 2. Gaining a release for all claims against UM congregations. Any and all such claims would pass through a newly created BSA Settlement Fund.
 - 3. Advocate for similar releases for other charter/sponsor organizations.
 - 4. Protect insurance policies purchased by UM congregations without first having a full settlement with UM congregations.
 - 5. A financial settlement for all UM congregations for contributions in exchange for releases.
- iv. As noted, GNJ advises that we reject the current settlement plan and go back to negotiations. There is a lot to criticize – plaintiffs are also asking to reject the plan.
- v. Morrow remains unaware of any claims filed related to scouting in Morrow.
- vi. A former troop associated with Morrow did have a sex abuse claim from the years 1983-1985. That case did go to court and was successfully prosecuted. However, that troop and connection are not related to the current situation, from which no civil claim for Morrow has surfaced, as above.
- vii. Votes are to be submitted from each church by December 14, 2021. The court will tally up votes from all parties and decide to accept or reject the current proposed settlement plan.
- viii. GNJ is still negotiating funds to be added to reach a full and final settlement for UM congregations.
- h. Following this discussion, Andrea Wren-Hardin reminded us we should be completing/updating Morrow's Safe Sanctuary policy.

i.

15. **Adjournment**

- a. Pastor Brenda closed us out in prayer at 8:36pm
- b. Brooks Leonard motioned to close the meeting. Fred Profeta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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