

# MORROW MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
7:00 p.m.  
MINUTES

1. Opening Prayer & Welcome
  - a. Attendance: Janice Sutton Lynn, Brenda Wheeler Ehlers, Mary Sue Sweeney Price, Tim Roebuck, Marcia Roebuck, Maureen Hurd Hause, Judy Rogers, Fred Profeta, Loren Condon, Krystal Woolston, Holland Jancaitis, Ayo Akinuoye, Barbara Illingworth, Tia Swanson, Chris Pisciotta, Bruce Schafer, Cynthia Hicks, Kristen Kush
  - b. Pastor Janice opened the church council meeting in a word of prayer.
2. Approval of Minutes of Church Council
  - a. Judy Rogers motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Krystal Woolston seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Senior Pastor's Report
  - a. We're excited for all the Lenten activities that have been planned.
  - b. We're focusing on messaging for marketing for outreach and recruitment. Currently working on a survey to go out to new families and individuals who have been coming with questions such as "how did you hear about Morrow Church?" and "why did you stay?" New families have also been invited to sit on the team for a new perspective.
4. Associate Pastor's Report
  - a. We're really excited about our Lenten offerings:
    - i. We will have one-time events and multiple time events for people to participate in.
      1. Backpack pals program – this is a ministry that happens at Morrow Church. We provide space and hospitality and will be partnering more closely. We are looking for volunteers to host. We will be having an informational night March 9<sup>th</sup> to hear about the program and ask any questions anyone may have.

Twice a month groups from the community will come to make food for 150 students who normally get their food through their schools to send them home with additional food.

- ii. Morrow clean-up day/spring gardening day will take place April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- iii. We will also be making meals for others to keep in the kitchen frozen for those who need them.
- b. Education initiatives
  - i. We will be running a 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade peace through nature program
  - ii. Sisters in faith and companions in faith will have special Lenten offerings.
  - iii. The Sunday morning discussion group will be a master class on spirituality and the black experience
  - iv. There will be a pancake lunch this Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup> the youth will be serving and hosting
  - v. We will be running Saturday morning play time 9:30AM with coffee and snacks for parents to share wisdom and knowledge with each other.
- c. Faith initiatives
  - i. We will be offering yoga and meditation Saturdays at 10:00AM
  - ii. Contemplative worship continues Tuesdays @12:30PM
- d. Youth groups updates
  - i. We are back together and back in the youth room
  - ii. The groups are smaller than pre-covid, but growing and doing a-lot of outreach
- e. Opening Committee – Our covid protocols remain the same- masks are required.

5. **Memorial Preschool Report**

- a. March 5<sup>TH</sup> 10:00am-11:00am we will be doing a service activity for Isaiah House making birthday boxes.
- b. We will be assisting in Earth Day activities on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- c. The pre-school will continue to wear masks indoors, but unmask outdoors. This change will be announced in the March 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter
- d. Next year recruitment is looking good. We are doing some multi-age classes. We will have a more definitive idea when payments start to come in. The 1<sup>st</sup> payment is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

6. **Music Report**
  - a. You will have the opportunity to hear kids choir, youth choir, and a Peeling bells on Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup>.
7. **Global and Community Outreach**
  - a. We are building on what we've done previously.
  - b. We are changing the way we meet – meeting once a month in a hybrid format.
  - c. Our first meeting will be March 27<sup>th</sup> and we will be hearing from Family Promise of Essex.
8. **Finance Report**
  - a. 2021 year-end reports show we did well with finances. All numbers are very good. Reports are looking nice. We are working closely with Jessica to learn what our system can and can't do.
9. **SPRC Report**
  - a. We had a good and productive meeting this week.
  - b. We have rejuvenated the process for evaluation of staff.
  - c. Clergy are currently working on goal setting and evaluating their goals from the previous year.
  - d. Our employee handbook update is currently in process with Elizabeth Kahn leading the way.
  - e. We hired Hailey Kim four months ago and said we would review and evaluate the halftime nature of the position at this time. SPRC had a good conversation, and we believe Hailey is getting a lot done. She has a joyful and active presence in Morrow and has even taken on counting checks. We are recommending no changes at this time.
10. **Stewardship Report**
  - a. We now have pledges in excess of \$350,000, close to our goal of \$360,000. Fred Profeta contacted past pledgers who haven't responded yet to encourage pledging and is confident some new pledges will be coming in shortly.
11. **Membership Report**
  - a. Have not had a follow up since the last meeting. Created an advertisement May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> new classes before 10:30am service. We currently have 4 new families that are interested in joining Morrow Church. We will welcome the new members in the 10:30am service May 22<sup>ND</sup> with hopes to celebrate them in coffee hour following the service.

12. Trustee Report

- a. 1<sup>ST</sup> Monday of the month for all meetings.
- b. January portfolio performance was not the greatest and we don't expect the next few months going forward to be very positive. The trust lost \$230,000 in January. The trustees will be meeting with Region Atlantic to discuss how to be fiscally responsible and still draw what we need to support our mission.
- c. We started conversations for projects for the upcoming year. We are moving forward with the "FUN" Committee for fellowship hall, touring sites for ideas, and have sent surveys out to understand what kind of feel members want.
- d. We are also working on bathroom air conditioning and related renovations.
- e. We are also looking at some non-construction projects like a financial audit.
- f. When RPFs go out for projects, we are using language that mirrors Morrow's mission, stipulating sustainable wages and diversity and inclusion criteria.
- g. There is currently nothing to report on the BSA settlement. Updates are expected within the next month or so.

13. United Methodist Women

- a. The UMW is currently planning for the turnover sale Current dates are set for June 30<sup>th</sup> July 5<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and one on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>, but that last date has not been decided. The UMW is hoping to use more rooms this year than last year and bring back the book section.
- b. The UMW will soon be putting the Bobby Flay kitchenware up for sale on the internet.

14. New Business

- a. No new business

15. Adjourn

- a. Judy Rogers motioned to close the meeting. Fred Profeta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- b. Pastor Brenda closed us in a word of prayer.

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)