

Minutes

Church and Community Connections Council

Tuesday January 14, 2020

7:00pm Church Parlor

Members present: Chaplain Donna Hale, Shelby Holley, Denny Minnich, Jeff Noble, Dave Rohrer, Pastor Chris Schwab, and Susan Stott, Bill Webb. Pat Frey, Consistory President, was also in attendance.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with an opening prayer by Susan Stott
- II. Approval of November Minutes: Chaplain Donna motioned to approve the November meeting minutes, seconded by Shelby Holley. Minutes were approved.
- III. Informational Items:
 - A. Dave Rohrer reported to the Council that Thank-You letters were received from YWCA for LEADS Meal in December and Salvation Army for donation of socks.
 - B. Pastor Chris received a note from a community member thanking us for hosting the numerous community events throughout the year
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Follow-up – YWCA LEAD program meal request: Susan reported that the meal was ordered and delivered to the YWCA from Panera. There was some difficulty getting the meal delivered at the requested time and communications with Panera were not always pleasant. Council will consider other food sources for projects like this in the future.
 - B. Follow-up – Advent “Sock” Tree: Dave reported 351 pairs of socks were collected (187 adult/164 children) plus 23 miscellaneous gloves/hats/scarves. Items were delivered to the Salvation Army on December 26.
 - C. Follow-up – Religion in Rap Music: The third (December 1) and fourth sessions (January 5) took place with 10 people attending in December and 4 people in January. Pat Frey wondered if the lack of attendance, particularly from community members, was due to the hour it was held. Some discussion took place with Council members suggesting this activity should be moved to the Christian Education Council. Dave will send Bill Harrison a note asking that Religion in Rap Music be moved to their Council.
 - D. Follow-up -Community CARES February Sign-ups: Dave reported that the CARES sign-up calendar is posted, close to half of the dates are covered, and we are receiving donations of cereal.
 - E. Follow-up – CCC Council Presentation to Congregation: Susan and Dave presented information about our Council to the congregation on January 5.
 - F. Follow-up: New Life Community Church breakfast request: Chaplain Donna reported that she attended a breakfast in December at the New Life Community Church and 85 guests received

breakfast. She indicated volunteers bring prepared food (some in crockpots) and it is placed on tables that guests can serve themselves. Volunteers are available at the table to help serve if needed and to greet guests. Chaplain Donna reported that some local agencies provide food and that volunteers can be in teams – not necessarily all from the same church or organization. Chaplain Donna indicated she will organize a “team” of people to provide breakfast for a Sunday in March. Susan suggested before making a commitment, that a representative from New Life attend our February Council meeting to talk about this project. Chaplain Donna will make contact with the church to have someone attend our February meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Council 2020 Calendar and Special Offering History – Dave distributed the 2020 Council calendar and a listing of our Special Offerings history to council members present.
- B. Tanis Monroy – Amani presentation: At Council’s request, Tanis gave a presentation to members about what Amani does for the community. Tanis stated that the word “Amani” means peace and that the mission is to bring people of various cultures together while providing a forum for enjoying, sharing, and learning more about each other’s background. Amani is a celebration of peace among all and is available to partner with community organizations to help/support activities. Tanis is looking for 1st UCC to become a partner organization through one of three levels - \$300.00, \$500.00, or \$1000.00 per year. Tanis indicated we are already an informal partner in the Children’s Ally of the Amani Festival, Dove Fest, Back To School Bash, and our Block Party. Other partner organizations in Amani include DCA, 2nd Presbyterian Church, Hope Station, Giant, and Destination Carlisle. Council thanked Tanis for the informative presentation. Council discussed this request and with a motion by Denny Minnich, seconded by Chaplain Donna, agreed to partner with Amani at the \$500.00 level. Funds will be taken from Community Concerns budget line item.
- C. July Music on the Plaza: Dave asked whether we wanted to consider changing the July Music on the Plaza with the Celtic Martins to a cooler month. The heat may be impacting attendance.. After discussion, it was decided to consider a date in June or late May if the Celtic Martins would be available. Dave will contact the Celtic Martins to see if they would be available in June or late May.
- D. Council Financial Support of Community Organizations: Much discussion took place about our financial support of local organizations - whether we should continue to support all that we have in the past, if these organizations are spending the funds appropriately and for the intended purpose, and if we should look for new community organizations to support. Council members feel community organizations should be able to justify the need for our funding and show how funds are used/dispersed. It was decided to ask all community organizations that we give funds to on a yearly basis to attend a Council meeting during the course of this year and present what they do for the community and how funds are used. We will attempt to schedule one organization every other month. Susan volunteered to review the financial filings of all of these organizations. We will attempt to have a presentation from Domestic Violence at our March meeting. In addition, Pat Frey thought it would be informative for our congregation to have organizations that are designated for a Special Offering give a presentation during a Sunday church service about what they do, how their organization supports the community, and how funds are spent. Council members thought many in the congregation do not know anything about some of the organizations our Special Offerings support. The presentations will be informative for congregational members and may lead to increased donations. While the

February Special Offering has already been decided (Salvation Army), we will attempt to implement this for the April Special Offering.

(Note: Council's yearly calendar distributed this evening will be revised to reflect this change. Special Offering designees will now need to be selected two months in advance to provide time to contact organizations to set up presentations.)

- E. Chamber of Commerce membership: Pastor Chris received a renewal notice for 1st UCC to keep membership in the local Chamber of Commerce. We have been a member in past years. The annual dues are \$260.00. Bill Webb motioned to renew our membership, seconded by Shelby Holley. Motion passed with all in favor. The funds will come out of our Advertisement line-item.

- F. New ideas: Pastor Chris presented three ideas being talked about/considered as informational items only at this time with no action necessary from Council:
 - a. New Community Event: Pastor Chris shared with us an idea being considered to have a community event this fall – Theology Pub in the Community. We would partner with St. Stephen's Lutheran Church at a location to be determined with the event including music, food, and discussion.

 - b. Human Trafficking: This is a huge problem in our country and our community is not immune to this. The idea would be to partner with a local therapist and the YWCA in Harrisburg to look at this issue, educate the community about this problem, and work on solutions.

 - c. Clothing Ministry at Church: There is a great community need for clothes. The idea would be to have new clothes available, through possible donations from clothing stores, to give to local community members in need. We would not be collecting used clothing. Pastor Chris indicated there is probably a space available in our church to house these items.

Jeff Noble motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Rohrer. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday February 11, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Parlor.

Respectfully submitted:
Dave Rohrer, co-chair