

**EGCC Council Meeting**  
**February 21, 2011, 7:15 pm**

**Present:** Michael Bush (Senior Pastor), Jeanne Daggett (Moderator), Lewis Vissia, Sara Worcester, Karen Pestana (Worship and Caring), Kevin McCloskey (Physical Resources), Dave Hasenbalg (Human Resources), Donna Clarke (Abundant Life), Ruthie Holton (Spiritual Formation), Kristin Hardendorf (Missions), Cliff Gibson (Vice Moderator).

## **I. Opening Prayer**

**Welcome and introductions, and Purpose of the Council**

**Bible Study led by Michael Bush**

**Health Updates from Ministries:**

**Pastor Sara:**

- Visitation Team had 3 new members join
- Women's Day Retreat, 36 women signed up
- March 9<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday Service, 2 high school students will be assisting w/ service.
- Another Retreat will take place involving Youth Group Advisors led by Pastor Sara.

Prayer for Pastor Sara

**Pastor Michael:**

- The UCC Newspaper CONTACT printed an article written by Pastor Michael about our church and all our many Bible Study groups.
- Michael further stated that he has been in conversation with clergy at other UCC churches about church small groups and a more Spirit-centered administrative structure.

Prayer for Pastor Michael

**Lewis:**

- Informed all of website, egchurch.org. Each ministry may use a page if they choose; there is lots of space with a limited format. Let Lewis know if you would like to utilize this space, either now or in the future.

- Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings is going well, has 9<sup>th</sup> graders and three 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Sunday evening Adult Confirmation Class is going well, using same curriculum, interesting to see it interpreted by different age groups.
- Was asked if Adults will be confirmed during Worship Service? Will be discussed – all adult members had not been previously confirmed and expressed a desire to do so. Will want to celebrate but probably on a different date.
- Jeanne expressed joy over comments on the website regarding positive feedback.
- Lewis visits Rotation.org which has a discussion board and has had response and positive feedback regarding our program.

Prayer for Lewis

**Kristin – Missions:**

- Last meeting was not well attended due to date change, welcomed one new member, Jenny Waller.
- Jenny will be taking over Crop Walk in the spring.
- Talked about budget and the \$1,000 discussed at the meeting. A member made out a check for Church World Service and there is nothing final on that as of this date.
- Brainstormed ideas for fundraisers.
- Encouragement cards have been very successful. 500 more were just ordered, as were 500 last year at this time. Was asked if she had any help with mailing and answer was: not yet but will once she sets it up so people can help with stamping and mailing.

Prayer for Kristin

**Karen – Worship and Caring:**

- Welcomed new members @ meeting, went over responsibilities
- Would like to grow in welcoming and being hospitable, smile, say hello, handshake – see as a ministry, not as a chore.
- Asked about Call To Worship volunteers. Lois Viets has taken it over, however there is a short list of go-to people that can be called.
- Would like to put next week's scripture in bulletin so members can live with it for a week and encourage those to volunteer for Call to Worship. Michael said that has been happening, printed in Bulletin, however, with Sharon out, it hasn't been in lately.

Prayer for Karen

**Dave – Human Resources:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with new team members, 2 past members. HR ministry team hadn't turned over in the past. There was a lot of contention in the HR ministry and the new team wishes to create a team to serve the congregation.
- HR members are reaching out and meeting w/ past HR members for coffee. Met with Betsy Mack, Kathy Mock and Beth Birmingham, and will meet w/ Brad Wolfe when schedules are coordinated with him.
- The ministry team is trying to identify what issues are and what to do about them. It was reported that it is off to a good start.

Prayer for Dave

**Kevin – Physical Resources:**

- Meeting 3 weeks ago. Kevin provided detailed notes that were passed out to all members. \*Please refer to hard copy.
- Discussion about recommending a CPA to review auditing procedure. A couple of names were recommended to Kevin as resources to use.

Prayer for Kevin

**Ruthie – Spiritual Formation:**

- Two new members, Ellen Forney and Kate Boyer. The ministry team is excited to have younger members involved.
- Game night will be Friday, February 25, 2011
- Men's Group will be involved in 3 new 'projects'; cooking at Emmaus, preparing a Mother's Day breakfast or brunch, and helping w/ Soup Kitchen.
- Members made a renewed commitment to attend all monthly meetings
- Discussion about whose responsibility it is to pay for child care during church sponsored events. In the past, HR would set up and schedule contracts and gave them to Ruthie to give to paid child care staff. Some confusion as to whose responsibility it is. Would like to keep communication open between HR and SF.
- Contact Deb Reimer if you would like to schedule an event, she will keep the schedule. Would like to offer childcare so younger families can participate.

Prayer for Ruthie

**Donna Clarke – Abundant Life:**

- Two new members, Wayne Korhonen and Bob Poudrier.
- Goals – giving and what it looks like to give
- Check in with new members
- Have a relationship with all ministries
- Will report in the Beacon what Abundant Life is up to and updating every month, considering using website.
- Asked if Abundant Life will try and identify people's gifts, not just monetary. Page 2 of Jubilee package asked about people's gifts. At this time there is no mechanism to identify individual gifts. Lewis stated that most people were checking off what they did and not what they want to do.

- Discussion about how can we make member responses on the “gift” sheets available to the council ministries, by creating an Excel Sheet or database to distribute. Questions on how to distribute, where info goes and not lost. There is a need to close the gap with collecting and distributing information and making sure it goes to the correct place. It was suggested that the church secretary could be utilized to create the database, and that it could be shared with all ministry leaders.

Prayer for Donna

**Cliff – Vice Moderator:**

- Here to offer support to Jeanne and council members, and to assist in any projects or assignments as requested.

Prayer for Cliff

**Jeanne:**

- Thanks to all Council members for sitting up front at Annual Meeting. Feels it’s important for church to see who council members are.
- John Kallen would like to offer a dinner for church once kitchen is complete.

Kevin: mentioned progress and construction is right on schedule.

Jeanne offers “with whom God chooses, God will equip.”

**Seeking New Life:**

Karen took unofficial minutes from Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Jeanne:

- Discussion about Retreat, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 2:30. Pastor Michael requests that all attendees take the opportunity to complete the requested reading(s) prior to the retreat. Dave Hasenbalg will conduct a leadership training seminar for the group, using self assessment profiles and information on how to be more effective in relationships. John Kallen has offered to prepare a meal for the council and retreat attendees that day.

**Discussion regarding bylaws review team:**

- A notice will go in the Beacon about the bylaws review team. As of this meeting there are 12 volunteers with 6 or more openings. List of Team members will be placed on the bulletin board. March 13<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to sign up with March 15<sup>th</sup> being the first meeting. Karen Pestana stated that she cannot attend on Tuesdays and therefore will have to resign from the team.
- Discussion on how to get a diversity of members on the review team, how will they solicit feedback, perhaps with house meetings? What will they actually be discussing? Was stated that meeting could have unintended consequences. Cliff stated that he hopes the team will bring God into their meetings and pray. Jeanne invited Council ministries to come to the meeting. She also stated that

they are on a schedule with 45-60 days, but they could ask for more time if necessary.

#### **Discussion regarding Annual Meeting:**

- Comments from the council : The dialogue was encouraging, forgiveness makes life work and we're all in this together. Some people remarked that people felt comfortable talking but then was stated that there was some heckling and noise when some were speaking.
- Was felt that there was some healing in the second meeting, however a lot is not being said, some are still festering and feel they are not being heard and are feeling left out if they are not part of a small group, even though they don't want to be in a small group.
- Was stated that the Council needs to communicate, reach out and ask why do you feel that way, what is the real issue. Agreed that communication is key, all members are encouraged to invite all in to Bible Study.
- It was stated that the council has a responsibility to insure that all church members are feeling included and that none are excluded.
- Was stated that the Men's group has an open invitation and another opportunity for involvement.

#### **Other:**

- Each ministry is encouraged to put an article in the Beacon.
- Council members are encouraged to meet at 10:15 on Sundays with Pastor Michael and Pastor Sara to be supportive through prayer before service.
- Kitchen should be up and running in a few weeks and will be more discussion on all the many things we will be able to do with it.
- The moderator tabled the scheduled discussion about Missions due to meeting time constraints.

#### **Installation Ceremony for Pastor Sara:**

- Was celebrated with a charge in Windsor, looking for a date to do it here
- Typically the Pastor plans the service, Pastor Sara will look for a date that suits EGCC scheduling.

**Ministry Meetings will be March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Next Council Meeting, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:15**

**Closing Prayer**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm**