

**CUMC/WESLEY FOUNDATION  
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**July 15, 2019**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Members Present:** Brenda Allen, Denny Coon, Adam Faeth, David Orth, Jodi Risdal, Mary Wickham

**Members Absent:** Doug Bates, Jen Hibben, Jason Janssen, Gerry Kennedy, Ryan Risdal

**Congregation Present:** Lindsay Drake, Sue Griffith, Ken Kruempel

**Actions Since the Last Meeting**

Chair Orth informed the council through an email on June 5, 2019 that he would be unable to attend a vote on June 8th for members of the 2020 general conference and suggested that Barbara Munson would be willing to serve as a reserve delegate.

**A motion was made (Janssen) and seconded (Kennedy) to elect Barbara Munson to serve as a reserve delegate for David Orth on Saturday night at the 2019 Iowa Annual Conference. Motion carried.**

**Call to Order**

Chair Orth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Drake provided the opening prayer.

**Congregation Comments**

Chair Orth opened the meeting to any comments by the congregation present. There were no volunteers.

**Team Building Exercise**

Allen led a short team building exercise for the members and congregation present.

**Discipleship Pathways**

Drake presented a discipleship pathway that she worked on with Lauren Loonsfoot. She said that Bishop Haller asked that each church to come up with a discipleship pathway by 2020. Drake and Loonsfoot started with the purpose statement for CUMC/WF, and the new logo for the church. They assigned the colors from the logo to words from the purpose statement: Invite, Experience, Grow, and Serve. They then added additional description around each of the words related to discipleship. Drake said they took this proposed discipleship pathway to the Christian Education Cluster, and then to the Ministries Council for feedback and approval. She said she

and Loonsfoot wanted to bring this to Church Council to reaffirm the pathway so they could start preparing to tie it in with the Fall ministries.

Wickham asked what will be different if the church council reaffirms this discipleship pathway. Drake said she hoped this discipleship pathway would help to communicate what we do at CUMC/WF. She said she and Loonsfoot talked about incorporating the pathway into how they publicize the fall ministries. She said it might also help people evaluate how they are living within the purpose of the church to be more fully rounded in their experience of church and God.

Allen said one of the questions Ministries Council raised was whether the congregation would know the term discipleship pathway. She said that that term is more of an internal name and suggested it might be shared with the congregation as, “how you might live in our purpose.”

**A motion was made (Jodi Risdal) and seconded (Faeth) to endorse the discipleship pathway created by Drake and Loonsfoot. Motion carried.**

#### **Minutes of the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting**

Chair Orth said that the minutes of the April 15, 2019 meeting were distributed through email, and an electronic vote was called as planned. However, the electronic vote only received four responses, and therefore was not a quorum.

**A motion was made (Allen) and seconded (Wickham) to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2019 meeting.**

#### **Administrative Council Update**

Chair Orth said that Doolittle resigned as Chair of Administrative Council last Monday and that Kennedy led the meeting. He said that Administrative Council was trying to determine a replacement chair. Pastor Coon said that Administrative Council raised the topic of how to handle nominations work in the new structure in general. He said that he was helping to look into options for committee and cluster nominations.

#### **Ministries Council Update**

Allen said that at the previous Ministries Council meeting, one of the issues they discussed was how to start off the new academic year. She said September 8<sup>th</sup> will be the first Sunday with two services again, and the church will host a welcome back barbeque. She said there will also be a rally for the children’s Sunday school classes to find their classrooms, and an open house for adult Sunday school classes. Allen said that Ministries Council would also host a Ministries Fair on September 15<sup>th</sup>. She said that Ministries Council discussed having a leadership table that might talk about opportunities for leadership within the Church.

Kruempel asked whether adult Sunday schools would start before or after these two Sundays. Allen said that she thought the Forum class was starting on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and that Sunday school classes would meet overlapping the ministries fair. She said that people could choose to go to Sunday school or part of the Ministries Fair.

Allen said that another topic that Ministries Council discussed was the results of the Faith Perceptions Survey. She said that some topics were outside ministries council like the signage problems. Griffith said that some of the signage issues raised in the survey have already been addressed, and visitor spots were re-marked in the parking lot.

### **2020 Budget Subcommittee Update**

Chair Orth said that 2020 budget subcommittee met twice and decided to recruit new people. He said that nine more people signed up. Chair Orth said the subcommittee has tough work cut out for it. Historically, the income from the church came from the congregation and from the annual conference. The annual conference support has fallen rapidly by \$200,000 in the last few years.

Chair Orth said that Finance Committee also voted to pay apportionments through June in their previous meeting and planned to discuss apportionments in their October meeting.

### **Future Church Update**

Chair Orth said that Doolittle held listening sessions that were well attended, but there was no broad consensus for what to do about the actions of the 2019 General Conference. Griffith asked whether the reaffirmation of our reconciling statement was an outgrowth of those listening sessions. Jodi Risdal said she remembered that idea came out of the listening sessions. Chair Orth said that staff helped to put it together and bring it to the Church Council.

### **Church Council Priorities**

Chair Orth asked the council for input about the priorities discussed at the January 21, 2019 meeting. The council discussed the need to revisit the nominations process in the new structure with Bates is moving to Florida and Doolittle stepping down as Chair of Administrative Council. Allen said that Ministries Council discussed the nominations process and the number of seats on each cluster or committee. She said they were in agreement that a three-year term makes a lot of sense. Some committees need more members than others, those committees wanted the flexibility to nominate more people.

Wickham said she thought it was an important to have a nominations committee because it promoted inclusiveness. She said that when she moved here, open positions were published in the bulletin. Pastor Coon said that nominations are one thing that many ministers do not like to do, but that ministers are supposed to be involved in the process. He said that a year-round process worked better in the past for his previous churches, rather than a seasonal nomination process. He said that he was planning to meet with Allen, Kennedy, and Sherry Hoyer to talk about possibilities for nominations.

Griffith said the church is paying for Planning Center software and it might be able to help with the nominations. Wickham said she thought it was important to define a process first, and then see if the tools could support the process.

Pastor Coon said he thought it was important to pick a few things to focus on and show some early wins. He thought that clarifying the nominations process, coming up with the 2020 budget, and the Future Church discussions would be good progress to show the congregation.

### **Update to Congregation on Church Council Work and Priorities**

Allen suggested moving to the topic of communicating the church council's work to the congregations. Pastor Coon talked about an idea where each committee or cluster might talk for a few minutes during each service.

Kruempel suggested that the membership of committees and purposes of each group need to be better communicated to the church. Pastor Coon asked how he thought that should be communicated. Griffith suggested that it might tie in with Pastor Coon's idea to have each committee and cluster talk for a few minutes during the service and print the members in the bulletin that week. Chair Orth said that the nominations subcommittee within Administrative Council is working on clarifying the membership and terms within the committees.

Chair Orth said that he has also been working to pilot adding the information about cluster and committees to the Church's website starting with the Church Council. He said the hard part is defining who will be responsible to keep the information up to date, and how they would find out about changes.

### **Adjournment**

Pastor Coon provided the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Faeth, Secretary