

Present: Pastor Ben Moore, Vicky Allen, Ruth Bruns, Ann Chaffee, Joan Crice, Inez Freeman, Sharon Gangwish, Larry Gourley, Nancy Nickels, Chuck Rice, Bob Seborer, Barbara Stout, Dave Van Der Doss, Brian Wanless, Lynn Wanless, Dwayne Williams.

After Larry Gourley opened the meeting at 5:40, Pastor Ben read the Christmas Story from Luke 2 and asked what elements struck listeners upon this hearing. Council members split into program area meetings after reading the Mission Statement and "New Vision."

Upon members' return, minutes and January 2012 Calendar were reviewed; both were amended.

Program Area Reports

Trustees. Dwayne identified two January projects: cleaning the overstuffed Boy Scout closet in the basement and building shelves in the Choir Room. On behalf of Linda Hay and Mary Shane, Lynn asked if old pulpits and communion tables could be moved out of the church; someone added that an altar now stored in the Choir Room should be removed, too.

Missions. Joan said that the committee had decided to give the \$250 Mary Cunningham Memorial Gift to the Holiday Food Basket project. Lynn will get daughter Joy's address for Joan, and she also suggested Joan contact Linda Hay for more information. Vicky Allen volunteered some teenagers to help with the December 23 distribution. Joan said she plans to get advice on Missions Committee operation from Mary Gosney.

Educational Ministries. Pastor Ben and Larry summarized the Congregational Leadership Development (CLD) that they, Rob Blevins and Sharon Williams attended in The Dalles starting in November. Methodist, Lutheran and combined congregations will join monthly meetings for six weeks, addressing the need to assure "continued viability" in gorge churches. Ben, "What makes some churches thrive? Maybe we can learn something." Larry referred to the conference text, "I Refused to Lead a Dying Church;" Brian added that GUMC has applied most of the book's suggestions.

Sunday morning classes are finishing their current studies and will wait till January to begin new topics. No one reported from Spirit Salon.

Pastor Ben reported that Christ the King Lutheran Church, Goldendale, will contribute \$700 to the 2012 Vacation Bible School, so that Twinlow Camp's traveling Day Camp can organize VBS. GUMC will match this amount, so a committee will be appointed in January to suggest fund raising activities.

Membership, Nurture & Outreach. Dave reported four ideas: 1) a Lenten activity beginning in February, which might include Bible study, soup and bread, 2) Greek words every Christian should know, 3) encourage Sunday morning class attendance, and 4) use the church newsletter to query members, "What would people like to study? What would contribute most to your faith journey?"

Worship. Barbara referred to the Holiday Schedules and Activities on the Agenda and added the Christmas Cantata's performance at the Maryhill Winery, Saturday, December 17, at 2:00 p.m.

UMW. Lynn will contact Mary Shane about serving cookies and punch at the Christmas Cantata on December 18.

UMM. Men will meet next on January 14, 2012, at Sodbuster's.

Administrative/Finance. Brian stated that apportionments have been fully paid through 2011, the fifth or sixth year GUMC has done so without struggling financially. "The budget is in the black and looks good."

Connie Pond is donating the vinyl linoleum which she and Claudia Moore selected for the parsonage office. Gary Denney Floor Covering of The Dalles will install it for \$900.00. Ruth/Dwayne m/s that surplus monies from the Furnace Replacement and Soup Kitchen Remodel budget be transferred to pay for the installation. Approved.

Staff Parish Relations. Nancy and Ben said that the committee will interview two individuals who are interested in child care during the Sunday service.

Good of the Order (no other business). Pastor Ben commented how impressed he was with the generosity of church members in support of missions and church activities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. Next meeting is January 4, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Inez Freeman
Secretary