

December 14 Council Highlights

Council Chair Vince Snowbarger called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Members present were Jackie Berger, Sabrina Butler, Anne Linenberger, Ken Linenberger, Carolyn Snowbarger, Vince Snowbarger, Sally Swartz, Tamora Thomas, and Pastor Charlie Packard. Charlie Carson was recording secretary. Dave Guenther was excused. Vince opened with prayer.

- Ken presented the final financials for November. Income has started its seasonal decline; however, expenses are lower than budgeted in most categories.
- UCSJ is now registered as a charity with the AmazonSmile program. Buyers who make online purchases through AmazonSmile and designate UCSJ as their charity of choice, can have a portion of their purchase donated to UCSJ. Although the amount is small, it is another opportunity to obtain funding. We will continue to explain and promote the program to the congregation. *(See page 3 for more details.)*
- The new projector has been purchased. While the council had approved the purchase of a new screen, that was put on hold until we have an opportunity to use the new projector with the old screen.
- After reviewing a PST update provided by Charlie Berger, Tamora and Sabrina shared their observations of the current state of the pastor search.
- Pastor Charlie shared some of his plans for the coming Lenten season, including several programs related to the life of Jesus. Working with the Education Committee, he plans a focused Bible study and a couple of movie nights looking at who Jesus is. This will also be a focus of the sermons during Lent. *(See page 4 for more details.)*
- Anne called council's attention to her TGIF series of fellowship events in the next few months.
- Ken reported on the recent meeting of the Memorial Fund Ministry. Attending were Eric Lattanner, Ken Linenberger, Charlie Packard, and Vince Snowbarger. David Young is also on the committee. The meeting was primarily organizational in nature, with the election of Eric as chair and Vince as secretary. Requests for funds are to be made through ministry chairs. Pastor Charlie also suggested possible adoption of a gift policy.
- Pastor Charlie will remind the congregation of year-end giving opportunities. It was noted that the pending tax reform bill in Congress could make charitable giving more advantageous in 2017.
- Sabrina introduced the concept of "2nd Half Ministry" which would focus on the needs of our seniors both inside and outside church walls.
- Pastor Charlie closed with prayer. The next council meeting is **Thursday, January 11 at 4:00 PM.**