

Church Council Minutes
Mar 10, 2025

Loveland FUMC strives to bless and serve our local and world communities while living the teachings of Jesus Christ. We accept people as they are and strive to live in harmony with God and all of divine creation.

We welcomed Rev Leslie, Matthew, Charlie, Barry, Pam, Desiree, John K, John M, Betty, Andrea, Katheryn, Joy and Judy as well as guest James Clegern.

We missed Nicole, Susan, Cindy, Debbie, Janeen, Keith, Mike and Marlene.

Welcome ~ Judy

Devotion ~ Judy

Approve Feb. 1 minutes ~ approved unanimously

Prayer requests ~ **Tom Thompson, hip surgery; general prayer for light and love to fill all hearts on the planet**

Pastors

Rev. Leslie Wood and Rev. Lee Anderson Harris

Staff

Church Treasurer

Karen Lumpkin

Music Coordinator

Kathryn Peiffer

Choir Director

Nicole Ceciliani

Youth Ministries Coordinator

Matthew Utley ~ **Matt said that between Union, Trinity and FUMC, 15 kids are going to Buckhorn Camp!**

Family Programming Coordinator

Desiree Aragon ~ **Desiree told us a bit about the work she is doing at FUMC. She is a busy, energetic, uplifting person!**

Bell Choir Director

Susan Harding

Committees

Lay Leader

TBD

Financial Secretary

Cindy Utley

Staff Parish

John Morgan

Finance

Charlie Bouchard

Trustees

Debbie Tikka

Abiding Memorials

Betty Hill

Stewardship

John Kindred

Missions and Social Concerns

Barry Wehrle ~ **Barry announced the Fellowship Dinners that Carl Williams will prepare on the last Wed. of every other month. Please plan to attend, and invite others! All proceeds will be used for emergency relief.**

Marketing & Outreach

Andrea Ortega

Membership Secretary

Janeen Anderson

Safety and Security

Keith Flaming

UM Foundation

Mike Westbrook

Lay Members to AC

Matthew Utley, TBD

At Large

Marlene Thurman, Joy Shaw, Pam Erickson

Church Council Chair

Judy Stout

Additions to the agenda?

Business:

- Our financial issues...

This conversation took up most of the meeting. Hard discussions, lots of ideas and comments.

James Clegern brought a visual representation of our financial situation and the urgency thereof. Charlie and James led the discussion.

- **There is a sense of fiscal urgency. FUMC cannot sustain this kind of deficit budget for more than 2 – 3 years.**
 - o **Church staffing is 60% of the budget, building/property expenses are 20% and administrative, membership and missions are the remaining 20% of the budget. No easy choices for a \$713k budget that is \$115k in deficit.**

- o How do we make the congregation aware that we have a LOT of money (capital reserves), but it can't be used for salaries and the church operational budget?
- o We need to address near-term actions that reduce the deficit and not take 1-3 years to mature
- **Sharing FUMC church space:** Churches could combine for space, providing funding support for the same building but keep separate identities and service times. For the Easter party, we have two churches coming together. We can do more of this.
- **Increasing membership:** Some local churches have increased their membership. Why not us?
 - o Two churches in town have combined to create one new church. FUMC could explore this also, but it often takes 1-2 years to develop relationship and agreement.
 - o Ft Collins 1st makes it clear who they are (symbols and signs) & they offer lots of activities.
 - o Evangelical churches are thriving, they appeal to younger age groups.
 - o We need to be more *member-focused*. If we make some changes, people will feel more like family.
 - o Could we give tours of the church after events as hospitality? Previous feedback on tour offers were "no thank you".
 - o When we first came, building membership and caring for people came with the youth program.
 - o Do we market for church, Sunday school, VBS?
 - o It is easier to come to events than to a church service. The goal is for *community*, not for membership.
- We need to talk about volunteer opportunities; some people don't want to come to a service, but want to be out in the community.
- How are we advertising for rental space within our church? That will come over time as our spaces get updated. We are on some lists for space availability per Rev. Lee.
- It's not always about Sunday morning worship.

Staffing

- We need to fill jobs based on who we are now, not who we were. As we grow again, staff can grow with us.
- Can someone at the conference level help us analyze our staffing based on our size and programming? **We are in discussion with our District Superintendents to see if they have advice/ideas for us.**

Property

- Would we sell off assets before selling the building?
- How much are the church vehicles being used?
- We could probably repurpose or update the rent on the rental house and get more money from it.

BEING the church doesn't necessarily change our situation.

Discussion

- Committee reports
- Facility Use Agreement and Fee Schedule ~ Joy Shaw ~ **Joy reviewed the document and is looking for ideas in renaming rooms/wings of the building. We want ownership and buy-in. The reference to the 'dishwasher' in Fellowship Hall' has been removed.**

Reminder: These are works in progress and will be amended as we begin more extensive rental of our space. Trustees approved with suggestions. The attached copy does not address those suggestions.
- In October, CC voted on the 'direction for use in Coy Hall.' Marlene made a motion on behalf of the Design and Décor subcommittee on behalf of Trustees that **"the ministry of Coy Hall, including East and West Coy Hall, be defined as a large group gathering space, with dividers installed which can be open or closed, allowing East and West Coy to be accessible as spaces for small group gatherings as needed.** The motion passed unanimously. Since the dividers have been removed and new flooring installed, there have been some suggestions that we wait on the dividers for a period of time and determine if we still want to install new ones. **Discussion points:**
 - o We will need dividers if we want to have additional rental space.
 - o 50K is a LOT.
 - o It would be cheaper to put in permanent walls, but that would limit the openness of Coy Hall.
 - o We don't need to make a decision right now.
 - o The dividers in Fellowship Hall are soundproof IF you know how to use the lever to depress the strip at the bottom. That was news to a lot of us!
- Comments about the "Conversation Pit" in E Coy?
 - o We love it!
 - o It may be too open/public. Would families at funerals want to be so open? (John Ireland's family used the space and seemed very comfortable.)

Closing Prayer ~ Judy

Future Church Council Meetings: Mondays at 6:00

May 12

July 7

Sept. 8

Nov. 10

Meeting TBD to approve budget

Charge/Church Conference TBD