

Sch. Haven Council of Churches Minutes
Nov. 25, 2014
St. Mark's UCC, Cressona

- I. Mtg. called to order at 7:08pm
- II. Presentation – None
- III. Invocation – Rev. Nathan Druckenmiller
- IV. Attendance – See sign-in sheet **** Please see attendees list at end of document.**
- V. Adoption of Agenda...Moved: Rev. Carl, 2nd Charles Wernert...no discussion...all in favor
- VI. Approval of Minutes...Moved: Verna Ebling, 2nd Elizabeth Hand...no changes...all in favor
- VII. Incoming Correspondence...Rev. Bernie shared correspondence from the Sch. Haven Business and Professional Women's Club regarding a Friendly's Fund-raiser night for the Food Pantry. From Rev. Brad about possible grants from Walmart Distribution Center. And from Rev. Ted about Voice of the Martyrs Ministry.
- VIII. Treasurer's Report: Rev. Kathy summarized her report...Linda Schumacher moved to accept the report, Charles Wernert 2nd the motion...no discussion...all were in favor.
Secretary's Report – None
Vice President's Report – Rev. Bernie reported that Jerry attended a marketing seminar, but he determined that no strategies were shared that were applicable for the Council.
President's Report – Rev. Bernie reported Rev. Susan's departure from Covenant UM and that a new pastor is in place. She will contact him and invite him to participate in the Council. She also reported that the Thrivent grant application was completed Nov. 19th. She asked permission to share the e-mail contact list with Delegate Kelly Reno, so that Council members have the opportunity to participate in Kelly's Dissertation research. Permission was granted. She reported that website construction continued and invited churches to check the information on the sight to make sure all was correct. She announced that future meetings all reports will be posted online and only a few hard copies will be available for those without internet access. Delegates were given a login password to access reports. And she gave Rev. Ted the floor to speak about "Voice of the Martyrs Ministry." Rev. Ted shared resources and announced that he is available to speak. The ministry's focus is raising awareness of Christian persecution and ministering to persecuted Christians.
- IX. Blood Bank: Ruth Tucci reported 48 units were collected Nov. 13th including several double reds. All went fine w/o cookies and Guers donated drinks in pint containers, saving the expense of cups (this will be ongoing).
Food Pantry: Verna Ebling reported Sept. distribution was 195, items collected 2900. Oct. distribution was 217, items collected 2265. So, far Nov. distribution is 244, items collected N/A. She also reported that everyone received either a turkey or turkey breast at distribution on Nov. 21st and that Boyer's will donate \$1500 worth of food as a result of an in-store promotion. Rev. Bernie reported on behalf of Cheryl Feeser all that was received for our \$120 from "Share Our Surplus" (see report). Items were distributed on Nov. 21st, next availability is probably in March. Rev. Bernie also reported that the food cards purchased in Jan., plus left-over cards should be enough for Dec. distribution. Rev. Nathan asked permission to distribute books this spring that his church is collecting and birthday bags that his youth are assembling, permission was granted.
- X. Social Action: Revs. Shawn and Kathy reported that since the last mtg., 4 people were assisted with Borough utilities, 1 with heating oil, 1 with PPL electric, 1 with an oil burner, 10 were provided with emergency lodging and 8 were ineligible for assistance.

Rev. Shawn reported that the Back Pack Buddy Program is being extremely well received. Rev. Kathy referred to the Treasurer's Report for a funding update on the program and mentioned that very few contributions have come in from local service organizations. It was consensus that soon after the new year we'll need to begin looking for funding sources for the 2015-16 school year.

Rev. Mark will cover Dec. Borough Council prayer. Rev. Shawn is continuing to work on future schedules.

Revs. Bernie, Brad and Nathan reported 132 walkers in this year's Crop Walk and \$8492.75 raised. Both are believed to be the largest ever.

Rev. Bernie shared the topics of conversation at the Pre-Council Clergy Mtg. and Rev. Mark gave an update on the Family Hope Program at Bethesda.

There was no report from the Mayor's mtg. and Revs. Bernie and Shawn are working on updating the directory.

- XI. Rev. Bernie asked if anyone remembered who volunteered to audit the books. Some believed it may have been Vice President Jerry. Rev. Carl also volunteered and Rev. Shawn believed a member of her congregation would help if it was done during the day. Revs. Bernie and Kathy asked the group to audit the books from 2008 forward. Discussion was held regarding the letter received prior to our last mtg. about worship services at South Towers. Rev. Bernie reported that First UM has relinquished the lead on this ministry. Questions of clarification were asked, discussion was held, it was decided to gather more info and revisit this topic in Jan.
- XII. Next Mtg. Jan. 27, 2015 7pm at Church of Nazarene
- XIII. Benediction – Rev. Nathan
- XIV. Motion to adjourn: Rev. Carl, 2nd Charles Wernert, no discussion, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Bradley A. Walmer

****Taken from the attendance sign-in documents for the meeting of November 25, 2014**

Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner, Pastor Mark Brooks, Pastor Nathan Druckenmiller, Verna Ebling, Elizabeth Hand, Rev. Bernadette Meck, Pastor Ted Rathman, Linda Schumacher, Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Ruth Tucci, Pastor Shawn VanDyke, Pastor Brad Walmer, Charles Wernert.

Addendum by Yvonne Szpara, 12/08/14