



January

2: Pastor Won Un

6: Tom King

8: Michael Melton

11: Lisa Carter

14: Mary Ann Shoemaker

16: Ron Jones & Sandra Clemmer

26: Thelma DePreist

29: Diane Baker

February

2: Gus Gutshall

4: Ed Smith

6: Carolyn Smith

9: Millie Brown

11: Aaron Peters

17: Caroline Jones

25: Benham Black

27: Doug Noland



To All those at Central United Methodist church would like to thank you so very much for your kindness, care. And those at the Food Pantry which are all hard workers. Thank you again for putting food on our table



The Central Connection

2021 January Newsletter



January 2021 Council Minutes

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:05 pm on January 26, 2021. Due to COVID-19, Council met electronically via Zoom. Connie Davis presented the devotion. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, Mary Douglas, Sybille Jobin, Yi-Ping Chen, Won Un, Sandra Clemmer, Mike Melton, Bill Bushman, and Joe Hill.

Tom invited Council to offer suggestions as to what Central can do better than we have in the past.

Committee Reports

Lay Leader: Connie Davis thanked Yi-Ping and Won for putting together good recordings for our Sunday service each week.

Staff Parish: Sybille Jobin reported that the SPRC had unanimously recommended to the District office that Won Un be reappointed to Central for another year. She thanked Won for his efforts during our pandemic. Won likewise requested to return to Central; however, the decision is up to the Conference.

Finance: Joe Hill reported that the Finance Committee met prior to Council and he shared with them the financial reports *Statement of Financial Position* and *Statement of Activities* for the month of December. During December, the total income was \$16,058.97 and expenses totaled \$19,339.43. For 2020, Central paid 100% of its Active and Retired Clergy Health Benefit apportionments though only 46.5% of the total apportionment. He also announced that Bobbi Rosson and John Myers volunteered to replace Ed Smith and Bob Markley as counters two Mondays per month. Giving statements for 2020 were distributed to members; anyone with questions about these should contact Savannah Murrin. He also shared with council a study he had done which compared the membership's giving to total income for the years 2003 – 2020. During this time period, the percent of income that came from envelopes, pledges, and tithes dropped from 84% to 41%. In 2020, for example, Central's total income was \$292,526.75 of which \$120,706.73 came from envelopes, tithes, and pledges. Central was fortunate in 2020 to receive substantial income from investments, a PPP loan, and gifts from families of deceased members. He reported that Central is not eligible for a second PPP loan because during no

quarter in 2020 was our income at least 25% below that of 2019.

Endowment: Tom Davis reported that the church's investments have done well. The parsonage endowment began 2020 at \$388,053 and ended at \$432,218. The Schwab General endowment began 2020 at \$158,166 and ended the year at \$181,528. The FirstBank endowment began the year at \$843,712 and ended 2020 at \$914,838.

Trustees: Bill Bushman reported that the last few months have had a few challenges. The wall along Beverley Street was damaged while food was unloaded from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank truck. A mason estimated that the cost would be approximately \$500 to stabilize the wall. The trustees are considering renting out spaces in the Willson parking lot. He reported that a boiler needs to be inspected and that our WiFi has been extended throughout the sanctuary and third floor. He also noted that the rate for Columbia Gas had been locked in for the next three years. He reported that the breezeway area is being looked at to discourage after-hours visitors.

Nurture/Witness: Won reported that Beverly Coltrane and Sandra Clemmer organized a "meal train" for several people.

Choir/Music: Yi-Ping Chen reported that the sanctuary had been used by her and her musician friends which had resulted in some guest musicians performing for CUMC. She said that perhaps there will be more virtual videos involving music though singing is still not allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions. She has now started a virtual sing-along using Zoom. Yi-Ping also reported that her organ lessons have continued.

Outreach: Connie reported that the Outreach Committee met on January 14 via Zoom. Caroline Jones reported that the Wednesday and Saturday Food Pantries are doing well. Clients can come once per week. Currently, the Blue Ridge Food Bank is covering all food costs. Won has been picking up donated food from a Staunton Food Lion which has been distributed at the Wednesday and Saturday Food Pantries. A coffee ministry was added thanks to Millie Brown. The Saturday soup is doing well. Noon lunch is doing well; approximately thirteen churches in all participate. Connie reported that people are very generous with their donations and recipients have been very grateful. Won reported that Linda Dinsmore is doing a great job with the Clothes Closet every Wednesday.

Children and Youth: Mary Douglas reported that John Bauman had taken a group of CUMC youth to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project.

UMW: The UMW plans to meet soon via Zoom.

UMM: John Myers reported that the men have not met due to COVID-19.

Pastor: Pastor Won noted that the Church is open and busy all week long with the exception of Sunday. Central has been providing a space for the noon lunches; a decision will be made in March whether to move this back to Trinity Episcopal Church. There are activities Monday through Saturday especially involving the noon lunches and Food Pantries. This coming Sunday, David Meyr, a lay speaker from St. Paul UMC, will be preaching. Won thanked all those associated with the feeding ministries at Central

including several from other congregations. There are several teams who serve soup on Saturday including one from Cherryvale Church and three from Central. Won had high praise for Millie Brown and Connie Davis for all that they did during the Christmas season including decorations and for their continued excellent hard work with their food ministries.

Won mentioned that Barbara Berry had passed (Dec 29th) away since Council met last. He encouraged Council to stay in touch other members with an occasional phone call.

Tom led a short discussion about re-opening Central for in-person worship services. He said that perhaps by April we could have an in-person Easter service. John Myers mentioned that the local Catholic church had several members who became infected. We discussed having another survey asking members about their willingness to return now that more and more members of Central are getting their vaccinations. We agreed to survey in March and consider re-opening on Easter Sunday, April 4, if enough people are willing to come.

The meeting was closed at 8:07 with the Lord's Prayer led by Connie Davis.

Respectfully submitted by

Joe Hill, Council Secretary