

The Eagle

January 2014



Ebenezer United Church
of Christ
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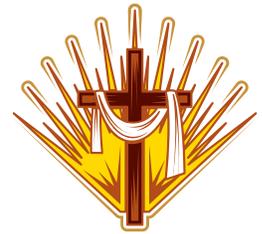
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Mission Statement of this Church

Ebenezer United Church of Christ is a vibrant faith community that strives to...

- ◇ Serve the spiritual needs of our neighbors.
- ◇ Transform by walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- ◇ Openly reach out for opportunities to share God's word at home and abroad.
- ◇ Nurture our relationships with God and each other.
- ◇ Empower and embrace faith, hope, and love in God!



PASTOR'S CORNER

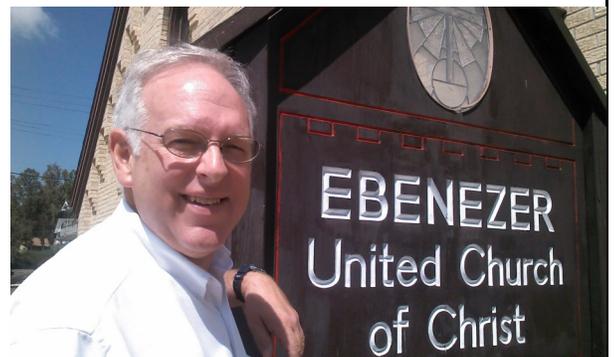
The excitement of Christmas has passed. The incredible cold keeps us inside. There certainly seems to be a dramatic letdown from the bright lights and anticipation of Christmas. Even though many people are down in the dumps right now because of the weather there is a change right around the corner and it's not the weather.

The season of Lent is quickly approaching. Lent calls us to take a deep breath and step away from the usual daily routine and strengthen our faith.

"Pastor Mike, how can we strengthen our faith?" To some people I would recommend that they begin each day with prayer...prayer as soon as you wake. Knowing that some people might close their eyes for prayer and then wake again a couple of hours later I'll instead say, after you're awake and are moving around the house...take time for prayer.

Daily prayer life can be strengthened using the Daily Devotional found each day at the UCC webpage ucc.org, remembering the prayer concerns voiced during the Sunday worship service, thinking of the people you sat next to in church, remembering the people you see at work, praying for each person in your family, etc. Some people pray silently, some by quietly voicing the names and concerns, and still others pray by picturing the person in their mind.

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Cont. from pg. 1

Daily prayer can be styled similar to a conversation with another person. This kind of prayer emphasizes the closeness and personal nature of your relationship with Jesus. Other people prefer a formal, ritualized, style of prayer. This kind of prayer reminds us of the holiness of God. I have heard many a sermon about the correct way to pray. I've read books about how to pray. The conclusion I've come to is whichever style(s) of prayer enables you to daily speak with God is the best style for you.

Daily Bible reading can strengthen faith. The Bible is quite a large book so where should you begin? If you are interested in the life and teachings of Jesus I'd recommend starting with Mark's Gospel. Mark is the shortest of the gospels. If you prefer the Older Testament, starting with Exodus will be a great place because you are introduced to the Hebrew Bible's greatest prophet; Moses. If you want to read about Paul, start with Acts and then save the Letter to the Romans for last (it's the hardest read of all his letters.)

During Lent, some people sacrifice something. The most typical item people give up during Lent is chocolate. I know I am a bit prejudiced here, I am partial to chocolate, but my understanding of Lent is it is a time when we can build our faith therefore, I prefer the active practices like prayer, Bible study, and the like. Giving up something, unless it stands in the way of strengthening my faith, isn't my preference. However, if sacrificing something helps you build your faith then by all means continue that practice.

You don't need to wait for Lent to begin starting those practices that build the faith. You can start some of these practices tomorrow morning or you can even start tonight. The sooner you begin, the sooner your faith begins to grow. I would love to have people come to me after church each Sunday and show me their Bible and discover that it is beat-up! A pastor is thrilled to see Bibles that are torn, dirty, have food stains, are dog eared, and such. Those Bibles are being used. The Bible that is in perfect condition is never touched. (If you insist on having a Bible in pristine condition, get one, and then use another for daily reading, taking notes, writing reminders, etc.)

Take the plunge that is daily prayer and reading. You will learn, grow, and have a closer relationship to Jesus Christ.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Mike

OCWM (Special Offerings)

This is the first in a series of articles about Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). The offerings described below are the ones familiar to most people because four times a year we take special offerings for these ministries. These offerings are called Special Support because they are above and beyond the most basic support of OCWM.

Our Church's Wider Mission Special Support comprises gifts to the four Special Mission Offerings in the United Church of Christ, per capita dues, and gifts that are specially designated for the Conference, national setting or UCC-related institutions. By mandate of the General Synod, each local church receives promotional material for the four Special Mission Offerings:

One Great Hour of Sharing: Giving Help, Hope and Life

Supports partners in more than 70 countries with ministries that fund development projects, feed the victims of famine, provide services for displaced people, and respond to natural disasters. These ministries are the responsibility of Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. Received annually on the fourth Sunday in Lent.

Strengthen the Church: Faithfully Building the Body of Christ

Supports church growth and leadership development in the conferences and through the national offices of Local Church Ministries. Received annually on Pentecost Sunday.

Neighbors in Need: Justice and Compassion Like a Mighty Stream

Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, including ministry carried out by the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and by the national offices of Justice and Witness Ministries. Received annually on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October.

The Christmas Fund: Remembering Those Who Serve Our Church

Provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands, a ministry carried out by the Pension Boards. Received annually on the Sunday before Christmas.



Our Church's Wider Mission

This is the second in a series of articles about OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission), what it does and how is it funded. It is easy to forget what is happening with OCWM when it seems to get lost among all the appeals for money that come to us during the year.

Please take a few minutes and get acquainted with OCWM



What does Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support?

In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts Our Church's Wider Mission. We work together to change lives!

The Office of General Ministries...

houses the President and General Minister who serves in many ways. One strategic role of the President is convening leaders in conversations on what it means to be a faithful, vital, and healthy church. These conversations take place in many and various settings of conference boards, local churches, seminary trustees and Mission Planning Council. The aim is to collaboratively develop new forms of cross setting resourcing, engagement and sharing.

The Office of General Ministries manages biennial convening of General Synod. In 2013 for [General Synod 29](#) delegates representing conferences and local churches from across the UCC gathered in Long Beach, California to vote on proposed resolutions presented before the body of the church.

Office of General Ministries also houses the Publishing, Identity and Communications office. One responsibility they have is establishing and maintaining a web and social media presence. [UCC.org](#) has over 4,500,000 visitors to the UCC website each year and these visitors view over 7,500,000 UCC web pages. The largest number of visitors comes for any of three reasons: to [find a church](#), [worship resources](#), or [preaching resources](#).

Outgoing communication keeps us connected. Every week over 60,000 subscribers open [Keeping You Posted](#) E-zine (KYeP). Our social media presence is growing. Those new to the UCC and those responding to postings by UCC members increase our fan base on Facebook which is over 61,000. And each day we email over 35,000 [Daily Devotional](#) messages to inspire and offer messages for reflection.

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Local Church Ministries...

support the local church in many ways. The [Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Ministry Team](#) (MESA) team is designed to support Authorized Ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned) in our denomination from the first inklings of their calling through a healthy retirement. MESA's ministry is a collaborative effort intertwined with Conferences, Associations, and Committees on Ministry.

When a person is moved from silence into exploration of a potential call to ministry they become a Member in Discernment and the MESA ministry team provides the guidelines and procedures for their formation. Conference Committees on Ministry mentor Members in Discernment. When that individual is authorized and called into service as a pastor of a local church, MESA is again there to provide support for continuing education and oversight.

If God's voice lingers yet again in the silence and that pastor feels drawn to explore a new ministry setting, MESA is there to support the search and call process of the denomination. As well as to offer support to those ministers serving in specialized settings such as hospital and college chaplaincy.

This holy work is never completed in isolation. It is dependent on God's presence moving through the church and calling forth leaders. Together we work across the church to form, equip and support faithful and effective authorized ministers for God's mission in the world.

The [Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team](#) support on-the-ground church operations and growth for pastors and lay leaders. We helped launch the [Center for Progressive Renewal](#) (CPR), a training center for UCC pastors and lay leaders and a growing number of ecumenical participants. CPR educates leaders toward implementing a "compelling vision, effective communication strategy, data management, community development, external mission and transformational worship." Recently partnered with two UCC Seminaries, the Center offers accredited courses and is "providing a complementary offering, allowing seminaries to offer the theological grounding, while CPR offers the technical training". There are two tracks: one for new church pastors and one for pastors looking to renew congregations (large and small). These course offerings are in response to the complex and ever-changing landscape of what it means to be church today.

Congregations large and small are nurtured by Local Church Ministries resources like scholarly reflections for pastors found in [Sermon Seeds](#) and [Weekly Seeds](#) bible studies for church members, as well as worship materials of [Worship Ways](#). Last year online readers of *Sermon Seeds* and *Worship Ways* exceeded 88,000. Churches are enriched by music found in books produced like [Sing, Prayer and Praise](#) and the UCC's [New Century Hymnal](#). Local Church Ministries nurtures vital worship and theological reflection.

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Wider Church Ministries...

is most widely known for the mission outreach work of the UCC because of our [disaster ministries](#). This arm of the church also serves congregations and other settings of the church who strive to be inclusive whether it is multicultural/multiracial, open and affirming, global or accessible to all.

In partnership with the Disciples of Christ, Common [Global Ministries](#) is the ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed.

All of this work – being long-term mission – is accomplished through over 70 trusting partnerships, 90 full-time deployed [volunteer](#) staff, 88 educational mission trip host sites, and shared resources for supporting those in need. We also gather mission reports from 164 UCC groups with over 5,500 members. We provide programmatic presence in disaster recovery, immersion training centers and service and learning sites to offer leverage and systemic support for wider ecumenical host sites, grassroots initiatives and mission trip participants.

The vision of Justice and Witness Ministries...

is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation but leaders are needed throughout our churches and communities to help share, pursue and achieve this vision.

[Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing](#) (Justice LED) training program for church members, teaches leadership skills to support justice work in local churches and UCC Conferences. Very exciting work!

[Justice and Peace Action Network](#) is a UCC grassroots advocacy effort to educate and engage church members and friends to shape public policy. Last year we've emailed over 600,000 "Action Alerts"! And over 35,000 letters, emails and faxes went to Congress and the President. [Public Policy Briefing Books](#) are also made available at UCC.org to download.

Immersion centers like [Centro Romero](#), [Franklinton Center at Bricks](#), [UCC Environmental Justice Center](#) facilitate educational, transformational issue based seminars on issue of globalization, environmental justice, economic policies, immigration and community empowerment.

The work of Justice and Witness Ministries is guided by the pronouncements and resolutions approved by the UCC at General Synod.

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OCWM is funded in two ways; basic support and special offerings. Basic Support is provided through the Sunday offering envelopes when you designate a certain amount of money on the envelope and through other special fundraisers by the people of the church. The Special Offerings are the quarterly offering that you hear about and that have the special offering envelopes.

OCWM Basic Support

Gifts to Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission benefit the full range of the United Church of Christ mission across the country and around the globe.

Our faith is 2000 Years old but our thinking is not.

- Because of our belief in a continuing testament, we are attentive to God's creative movement in the world...
- We arrive early on issues of social justice, as evidenced by courageous "**firsts**" for racial justice, equality for women, and inclusion of gay and lesbian people.
- We prepare leaders who are open to and prepared for ministry in the present and **future church**.
- We **train leaders** who grow spiritually, who build up the church, and put their faith into action.
- We embrace and **equip new kinds of congregations** and new modes of leadership.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- Because we believe in extravagant welcome, we insist that God's table is open, not closed, and God's gift and claim in baptism are irrevocable...
- We demonstrate this through **public professions** of our identity/purpose: multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming, accessible to all.
- We **advocate justice** for all as an extension and expression of faith.
- We are open to **new ways of being church** and forming Christian community.
- We affirm that **cultural differences** expand our ability to welcome more people.
- We strive to keep our perspective **global in our partnership** with people of faith around the world.

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Never place a period where God has placed a comma.

- Because we believe in transformation, we believe the church's mission is **changing lives** - individually, systemically and globally...
- We support, encourage and uplift local churches where lives are being changed through **worship**, education, fellowship, **mission**, and **justice advocacy**.
- We identify, recruit, educate and support leaders who **inspire others**.
- We support churches and **plant new churches** as vital places of worship, learning, and justice advocacy.
- We change lives through our global partnerships, **missionaries** and advocacy.

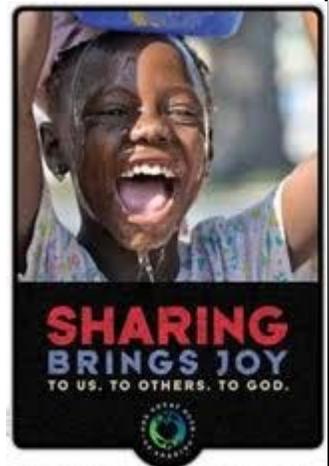
Thank you for your partnership. Together we are changing lives!

OCWM Special Offerings

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Thank You



I have heard that people are increasing their Sunday giving. This is welcome news for the church as we seek out God's calling for us as a faithful church here in Chilton. The health of the church is measured in several ways with the financial health being one. Because so much of what the modern church does needs financial support it is reassuring to hear that people understand the importance of a solid financial base.



Thank you to all who have increased their Sunday offerings.

Thank you



Thank you to Shirley Lisowe and the volunteers who helped produce such a wonderful Christmas program for the church. It was a joy to watch and listen as the youth shared such a special morning with the rest of the church.



Thank you Shirley for all the work you do to support the Christmas program.

Obrigado!

Thank You

Thank you to all who have kept my wife, Sue in your prayers as she battled several health issues the past few months. Sue is doing much better and able to minister to her two United Methodist churches.



Thank you

Thank you to all who helped with the accident at the Parsonage. The dedicated efforts of many helped minimize the water damage to the Parsonage.



Mission Committee News

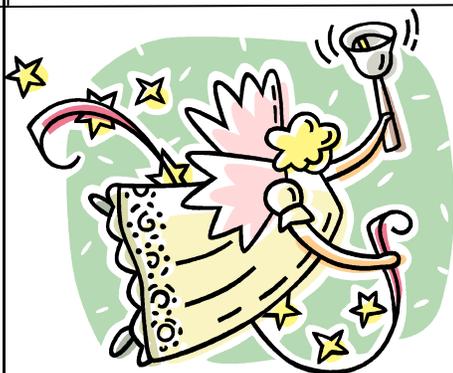
Just wanted to let everyone know that Rita Holst from Schmidts Clothing was the lucky person that won the Nativity Set Giveaway at Christmas time. Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held sometime in March or April if we have enough rummage. Please check your cupboards and closets for items you no longer need or want. We need them! Bring items to church and put them in the usual Sunday school room in the basement or call one of us for help. Nan @ 920-418-0149 or Jeanne @ 920-203-4137.



News letter
Articles

Please get your articles to Heather by the 3rd Tuesday of the month so she can get the Eagle published before the start of the next month. That means the deadline for the March 2014 Eagle is Tuesday, February 18. Weekly bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday morning.

Let's let everyone know what is happening at Chilton's best church!



Bells of the Lakes, a renown community based handbell ensemble based in Minneapolis will be performing at the Bob & Pat Endries Hall in the Franciscan Center For Music Education & Performance on the Silver Lake College campus. The college is located at 2406 S. Alverno Road, Manitowoc. Tickets are available through the Manitowoc Capitol Civic Centre Box Office - CCCShows.org or 920-683-2184. Tickets are adults - \$17, Seniors and students - \$12. You may check with Ebenezer bell choir members if interested in carpooling.



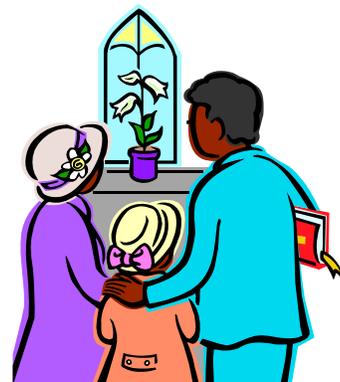
USHERS

FEBRUARY 2 CHURCH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 9 SUNDAY SCHOOL

**FEBRUARY 16 DENNY & RUTH AEBISCHER,
STEPHANIE & CASEY ADAMIETZ**

**FEBRUARY 23 VERN & EDITH KNOESPEL, JOANN LAKIN,
KERI MEYERS**



February Birthdays

Diane Sattler	03	James Dederling	15
Tjark Sattler	04	James Hertel	19
Linda Marx	04	Andy Hofmeister	21
John Mattes, Jr.	05	Terry Schenkus	21
Doris Propson	05	Dyane Boese	26
Phyllis Franz	06	Tim Van Oss	27
Brandon Schneider	14		
Darren Sattler	15		

If you have a February birthday, and it was missed, please let the office know so we can get it right next time.



Want to help the church financially but don't exactly have the funds to do so? Well, now you can at no expense to you. I am excited to announce that we are rolling out the new United Community program. It is a free, simple program to help raise funds for Ebenezer United Church of Christ and we are asking for your support.

Hundreds of area businesses are offering cash back to Ebenezer whenever you make a purchase with one of your existing MasterCard or Visa credit or debit cards. With your involvement, we can raise substantial funds for our church. It takes a minute to get started and we are asking you to register by **January 31, 2014!** Our goal is to have at least 75 members on board with the program and to raise \$3,000 for our church in the year 2014!

Here's how to get started:

Visit ucmission.com and click "Join Now"

Choose to support "Ebenezer United Church of Christ"

Securely enroll your existing Visa/MasterCard debit and credit cards

Shop at the partnered businesses with your registered debit/credit cards

Raise funds for our church ... it's that simple!

I will be in church the next couple of Sundays set up in the back to help get you enrolled right away if you would like to. It only will take you two minutes. All you need is your credit card that you will be using and an email address. The rest you don't have to worry about!

Thanks in advance for your support and involvement. We are very excited to raise more funds to help support our church and we need your involvement to make this happen!

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER...

Many of us can recall singing “The Little Brown Church in the Vale” in our early days and probably were part of small congregations similar to the ‘Little Brown Church’.

As per a special request from 1 of our handbell ringers, Ebenezer Brass is planning on playing “The Church in the Wildwood” for worship on February 23. It is a bit challenging but a very nice version of this classic tune.

There is a rich history behind the song. In 1857 a Wisconsin music teacher, William Pitts, travelled by stagecoach to Iowa. While stopping in Bradford, he took

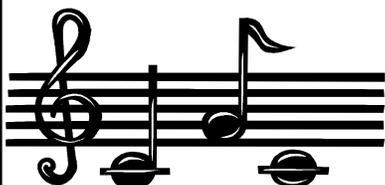


a walk and discovered a pastoral setting among some trees where he envisioned a church. Upon his return to Wisconsin he wrote a poem that he set to music about “The Little Brown Church in the Vale”. In 1863 he was called to teach at the Bradford Academy. When he & his wife arrived in Bradford he was amazed to find a church built on the site he had envisioned 7 years earlier. He presented the song to the Rev. John Nutting who was delighted to use it at the church dedication. Due to economic constraints the church was forced to close in 1888.

In 1914 The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches reopened the little brown church and resumed services. It continues as a thriving, active church today. It gained notoriety when the Weatherwax Quartet used “The Church in the Wildwood” as they sang throughout the U.S. & Canada 1910-1921. 40,000 tourists visit the church annually. In 2009 the 73,000 wedding was performed.

Although Ebenezer is not in the ‘wildwood’ , we are grateful for the pioneers that envisioned a church on the corner of Reed & Washington in Chilton!!!! As the bells play the music, think of the chorus as *“Come, come, come, come, etc ; Come to the church in the Wildwood (Chilton), O come to the church in the dale (on the corner); No spot is so dear to my childhood; As the little brown church in the vale (on the corner).*

There is a very interesting website about the Little Brown Church (<http://www.littlebrownchurch.org/>) and several sites with [performances of the song](#). It sure stimulates memories!!!!



IMPORTANT

During the summer it was easy to write a check or put some cash in the offering plate. It is also easy to forget about your offering envelopes.

Please remember to pick up and use your offering envelopes throughout the year. Use of the envelopes ensures your privacy and makes recording the correct amount of money to the correct person a simpler and more accurate task.

Don't forget to use those envelopes. (If you need new envelopes just leave a note or call Heather at the church. She'll get new envelopes to you for the next Sunday.)



Offering Envelopes

You may have noticed a small change to your newest set of offering envelopes. When you receive your new packet of offering envelopes you will notice the red sticker that says you are almost out of envelopes has been moved to the week before you use your final envelope. This small change will allow Heather to get your new packet out to the table before you use your last envelope.

This change helps in a couple of ways. First, the office will have two weeks to get the new envelopes to you. Second, you will always have an envelope at the ready for your offering, no more arriving at church and hoping you have new envelopes for that Sunday.

Thanks for the suggestions that have helped us make improvements to an already good system!

THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH

Loving, living, and serving faithfully – uniting God and our neighbors.



Eva Kris
Joyce Jason
Tod Louise
Dennis Charlaine

Due to privacy laws, we can no longer list last names of members of our congregation on the prayer list above because our Eagle goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet. Thank you.

Scrip



Please keep in mind to buy scrip if you plan on making a shopping trip, gassing the car, or having dinner out!! It helps our church meet our goals!



We have partnered with United Community to help raise funds needed to help our church. We are using the funds towards our OCWM contributions and the General Fund. Many of you have been using your United Community Card at the partnered businesses and we thank you for doing that. If you do not have a United Community card and would like more information on how to obtain one, please contact the church office at 849-4331.

Mission Rummage Sale Reminder



It is that time of year again when we start thinking about spring cleaning! Please think of the church when you are cleaning those cupboards and closets. We are planning a rummage sale sometime in April and need your items. Bring them to church or call one of us if you need assistance. Thanks! Nan 920-418-0149 or Jeanne 920-203-4137.

Council Meeting- January 19, 2014

Meeting called to order at 11:20. Members present: Ken Lisowe, Karen Cmejla, Don Waldvogel, Andrea Cmejla, Steve Stenz, and Pastor Mike.

Karen made a motion to approve the 2013 December bills list. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.

2014 Elections: The following people were selected for 2014 council duties:

President: Don Waldvogel

Vice President: Karen Cmejla

Treasure: Janene VanHoorn

Secretary: Andrea Cmejla

Karen made a motion to approve the 2014 elections for their prospective council duties. Andrea seconded. Motion carried. **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: STEVE STENZ AND STEPHANIE ADAMIETZ.**

It was decided to keep the council meetings to the third Sunday of every month after church service.

The next council meeting would be February 16th after service.

Don made a motion to adjourn. Karen seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Council Secretary, Andrea Cmejla



Annual Meeting Minutes

Ebenezer United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

January 19, 2014

Call to Order: President Ken Lisowe called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: Shirley Lisowe made a motion to accept the 2014 annual meeting agenda. Karen Cmejla seconded. Motion carried.

Church Covenant: Read in unison by the congregation

Prayer by Pastor Michael Safford-Kennedy

Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Terry Schenkus to approve the 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Diane Sattler. Motion carried.

Old Business: Ralph Schmitz and Ken Lisowe will be working together on Ebenezer's Constitution and Bylaws throughout the 2014 year. No other old business was discussed.

New Business:

Appointment of Tellers: Ken Lisowe appointed Wayne Kress and Dean Papendieck as tellers.

2014 Council Member Nominees: Stephanie Adamietz and Steve Stenz were nominated for a 2-year commitment to serve on the church council. Glen Pingel made a motion to accept the two nominees. Wayne Kress seconded. Motion carried.

2013 Financial Report: Karen Cmejla read the 2013 financial report. Approval of the financial report was made by Elaine Hessel; seconded by Karen Cmejla. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2014 Budget: With the recent pipe freezing and damages to the church parsonage, there was questioning whether \$1,000 was going to be enough money for 2014. Ken stated that our insurance is \$1,000 deductible and that the damages would be covered by our insurances. Estimates on the total loss in damages will be known in the near future. A new furnace would be put into the parsonage (which would be covered by insurance) and other repairs would need to be made. Vern Knoespel made a motion to approve the \$1,000 budget for "parsonage repairs" account; Glen Pingel seconded. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Mike read his pastoral report.

President's Report: Ken sent out a thank you to Ann Cullen for putting in all the extra hours to organize our church's finances and budget while she was treasurer. He also thanked the search committee in their work being done to help Ebenezer find our new pastor. Pastor Mike shared the top twelve items that were voted as "most important" when looking for a new minister. He also thanked the congregation for patience and understanding during this transition.

Adjourn: Don Sattler made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rita Pingel. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Andrea Cmejla, Council Secretary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship 	3	4 Church office open 9-5	5 Church office open 9-5	6 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 	7	8
9 9:30 am Worship Christian Ed/ Worship Comm Mtg 	10	11 Church office open 9-5	12 Church office open 9-5	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ 7 Angels 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal  	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15 Pitchers and Catchers report to spring training 
16 9:30 am Worship Church Council Mtg 	17 President's Day 	18 Church office open 9-5 Eagle Articles Due 	19 Church office open 9-5	20 1:00 pm Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal  	21	22
23 9:30 am Worship 	24	25 Church office open 9-5	26 Church office open 9-5	27 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 	28	