

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ
Board of Membership & Fellowship
December 11, 2016

Attendees: Janet Moyer, Lisa Alexander, Selfi Pastora, Anthony Riker, Keller Staley, Christina Stauffenberger, Leslie Weber

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Outcomes
Welcome / Opening	Lisa Alexander, who is joining the Board, introduced herself, noting past participation in the Board of Christian Education.	Called to order at 9:10 AM at the church.
Treasury report	Christina had prepared a statement of expenses for November and the YTD and distributed this to the Board electronically prior to the meeting. Total spending is \$14,812.45 representing 92.58% of the BMF budget for the year.	Board members were asked to make sure all receipts for 2016 are submitted to Christina before the calendar year-end. Janet will remind staff to do the same for their eligible expenses.
Membership activities discussion	<p>Janet gave a report on several activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Greeting team</i> – The team effort continues to go well, although longer “shifts” (rather than 2 weeks) might provide even more continuity. Janet is considering recruiting specific people to greet at coffee hour as well as before services begin. * <i>monthly membership report</i> – In response to questions from the Board, Janet explained 1) that every member has a number assigned consecutively going back to the congregation’s days in Mt. Pleasant; 2) members can be “dismissed” from the rolls after 3 consecutive years of non-attendance <u>and</u> no financial support. Janet tries to take care of this reconciliation of the records at least once a year. * noticeable small increase in attendance by young people in their 20s and 30s, most without children. If this is sustained, we might need someone to try to pull them together for a social outlet. . <p>As a follow-up to earlier discussions, Anthony had again taken a closer look at the church’s web presence as a tool for visitors and distributed some notes to the Board. A new observation: how few people are smiling in our photos. Leslie had also looked</p>	<p>Remember to greet unfamiliar faces in the pews and in the Social Hall.</p> <p>Read the handout Janet distributed on “Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service and Ten Things You Should Never Say to a Guest in a Worship Service”</p> <p>There was consensus that we should work with the person who maintains our site (Mimi?) about putting up different photos and also how best to add pages in the future, perhaps with a special focus on</p>

	<p>at the websites of five other area congregations and noted that most of them had more informative sections for visitors than what we currently have on our page. (Rock Spring UCC had especially helpful FAQs for visitors.)</p>	<p>visitors. We should solicit the congregation's assistance; maybe someone does this work professionally and would be willing to volunteer some of his or her expertise.</p> <p>Outstanding items: Keller and Janet to locate the list that was compiled of people who might be willing to take on specific tasks.</p>
Fellowship Activities	<p>There is change among our affinity groups: Janet reported that the PrimeTimers will no longer meet regularly and Keller reported that the Men's Group is thriving. Their last monthly meeting was an especially well-attended session on artificial intelligence.</p> <p>The next all-church fellowship activity will be a potluck chili lunch.</p> <p>The winter/spring coffee hour sign-ups were recently posted by Mimi.</p>	<p>Compile a list of the active affinity groups in the church and review at a future meeting. Identify any gaps.</p> <p>Leslie will work with church staff to identify a date in February for the lunch and use sign-up genius to recruit contributors.</p> <p>Board to review sign-ups at next meeting and consider how well this system is working for the congregation.</p>
Next meeting	TBD	<p>Leslie to poll the Board members for availability in January. It's very likely that Keller and Christina will have to participate by telephone.</p> <p>Evaluate offering an Easter egg hunt to the neighborhood on Holy Saturday.</p>
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM	

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Weber, Secretary