

**COM Minutes: 7-28-13**

**Attendees:** Susan Blackmore, Mary Branson, Olivia Carrender, Mary Chimarusti, John Hammond, David Shontz, Sarah Prickett, Rev Ellen Cooper-Davis (phoned in)

**Absent:**

**Guest:** Dorothy Kennedy

**A. New Business:**

1. **Dorothy (BOT liaison to the COM):** The BOT requests feedback from the COM on a letter from the “Americans United for Separation of Church & State” asking Northwoods to be a co-sponsor for a speech to be given by Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson and to give this information to the congregation. The organization will publicize (use Northwoods name) in their publication of this event. The COM is in agreement with the BOT wanting to be a co-sponsor; however we feel that we cannot publicly use Northwoods’ name as a co-sponsor because the Bylaws require a congregational vote approval on a policy statement (Article VI, section 4), which a co-sponsorship fits in this category. This is a BOT policy item.
2. **Selection of COM Responsibilities:**
  - a. Chair – Co-chairs Mary Branson & John Hammond
  - b. Secretary – Mary Chimarusti (liaison to the BOT)
  - c. Special project (s)– David Shontz (develop the COM Ministries’ Evaluation process)
  - d. COM Ministry assignments:
    1. Congregational Life - Mary Branson
    2. Spiritual Life - John Hammond
    3. Educational - Olivia Carrender
    4. SEE Justice - Susan Blackmore
3. **COM Retreat:** Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm – 4pm pot luck - work on Ministries’ Evaluation
4. **Lunch Bunch:** Rev Ellen reported that there have been several comments from participants concerning the Lunch Bunch; some would like to have a new group leader who is a member of the church.
  - a. COM discussed if the Lunch Bunch advances the Mission/Vision? YES
  - b. Does the Lunch Bunch as a church group come under Congregational Life Ministry? Yes
  - c. Mary B to talk with Congregational Life Ministry Chair to define the Lunch Bunch and will report back at a later time. Lunch Bunch will be suspended for the summer. This includes no announcement in the Beacon Bits or from the pulpit; Carol Hensel to be informed.
5. **Member Requests:** A member volunteered to make a church membership business directory and wanted to know if the COM would be the place to propose it. The COM discussed this issue and felt that this does not advance the Mission/Vision of the church.

**B. OLD BUSINESS:**

6. **Traditional Choir** – is not meeting on regular bases and will not be ready for the August Sunday. Susan & Ellen are taking care of the Second Sunday in Aug. The choir will perform in Sept. Long term plans for the choir is being worked on.
7. **SEE Justice** – “Arts for Action” fundraiser – scheduled for Aug 24<sup>th</sup> is going well, 7 charities will have representatives present.
8. **SEE Justice** – Welcoming Congregation to address more than LBGT inclusion, such as faith, race, age and gender discrimination issues will be addressed.

**C. Next Meeting: Aug 25<sup>th</sup>**