

**Immanuel United Church of Christ  
141 N. Service Rd. West  
Wright City, MO 63390**



**NEW START TIME ON  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 10:30 AM**

**IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OFFICE PH. 636-745-3864**

**NOVEMBER 2019**

Nov 3	Mary Sue Sitton	Greeter/Usher
	Lois Meyer	Reader/Usher
	Beverley Willoughby	Usher
	Lee Fast	Guestbook/Usher
Nov 10	Aaron Wilber	Greeter/Usher
	Jackie Nierman	Reader/Usher
	Paul Nichols	Usher
	Aimee Wilber	Guestbook/Usher

Nov 17	Roland Niemann	Greeter/Usher/Reader
	Richard & Margaret Ramey	Ushers
	Betty Zuhone	Guestbook/Usher
Nov 24	Donna Jones	Greeter/Usher/Reader
	Karen Cox	Usher
	Abby Rosemann	Usher
	Lois Meyer	Guestbook/Usher

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER NEWS ARTICLES DUE

### NOVEMBER 15

#### COUNCIL MEETING - September 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order, and began with a prayer, by Kelvin Lashley.

Council members present: Kelvin Lashley, Paul Saunders, Donna Jones, Roland Niemann, Mary Sue Sitton, and Abby Roseman,

Council members absent: Beverley Willoughby, Terry Leap, and Aaron Wilber.

Secretary Report: This report was read and a motion was made to approve the August report by Roland Niemann and seconded by Aaron Wilber. The motion passed.

Financial Secretary Report: This report was read and a motion was made to approve by Mary Sue Sitton and seconded by Paul Saunders. The motion passed.

General Treasurer Report: There was no report available at this time.

Pastor's Report: Kelvin Lashley reported that he has made arrangements for pastors for all of October and into November. Kelvin Lashley reported that the council members would be meeting with Tyler Connelly from the UCC Conference on September 19 at 5:00 pm at Immanuel UCC Fellowship Hall. Also attending this meeting will be representatives from the Zion UCC council. Zion UCC has not heard Jay Weisner preach more than once and would like to hear him a few more times before moving forward. There was some discussion about the two churches contributing equal amounts to a pastor's salary if the pastor would not have a need for the parsonage at Zion.

#### **Committee Reports**

Building & Grounds: Paul Saunders reported that the steps leading down the back of the Fellowship Hall have been fixed. The painting will not happen until the boards are fully dry. He is still working on replacing the hinges of the fence surrounding the trash dumpster.

Paul also mentioned that he would like to replace the bulbs to LED bulbs which are brighter and last longer.

Also noted by this committee is that one bush in front of church is no longer living.

Christian Workers: Mary Sue Sitton reported that our attendance for Sundays in August resulted in 240 people in attendance, with a weekly average of 60.

Evangelism & Stewardship: There was no report at this time.

Memorial: Bids are still being sought for the memorial project brought up by Darrell Schmidt. Some proposals have included painting over the paneling and others have included taking some of the paneling down and painting drywall instead.

Pastor Relations: Aaron Wilber introduced himself to Jay Weisner. He plans to be working on getting a fan on the altar and making sure the portable microphone batteries are charged.

#### **Sub Committees**

Christian Board: Rally Day, along with breakfast, went well this morning. About 30 people attended.

Women's' Fellowship: No concerns were reported at this time.

Evening Circle: Guest Day will be October 6.

Men's' Club: Men's' group will be working on replacing some of the bushes in September.

Old Business: No old business was discussed at this time.

New Business: The council discussed worship music needs while Mildred Groeper recovers. Karen Cox is working on getting this organized. Aaron mentioned that Amy also played guitar and could help. Some other people from the church are not able to play for worship at this time. To sing acapella, we need to use familiar hymns that have familiar tunes. There are also CDs that could be used to play the music. Jackie Nieman and Karen Cox may know more about how this could be utilized in worship.

With no further business to discuss, Roland Niemann made the motion to adjourn and Mary Sue Sitton seconded. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**ORDER YOUR ALTAR**

**POINSETTA'S NOW FOR**

**CHRISTMAS, SEE TERRY LEAP**

**TO PLACE YOUR ORDER**



## **Meeting with UCC Conference Representatives and Zion UCC**

### **9-19-2019 Immanuel UCC Fellowship Hall**

Tyler Connelly and Carol Shanks attended. Tyler will be leaving his current position at the beginning of October. Carol is a volunteer search and call steward for our church. Her phone number is 618-920-2904.

Mende Kemper, council president, and Terry Alia attended from Zion UCC in Troy.

Present from Immanuel UCC were Kelvin Lashley, Paul Saunders, Roland Niemann, Donna Jones, Mary Sue Sitton, and Abby Roseman.

Carol Shanks opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tyler Connelly suggested that it might be best for one person to book the pastor for both churches at this time. The pastor would be paid on a weekly basis. Supply pastors would not attend council meetings as one under a call would.

He also suggested that we use some time for discernment to listen to God and provide space and time for ourselves and Jay to determine if this is the best fit for us and for him as a pastor.

There needs to be an email sent requesting that Jay be licensed so he can provide all the services of a pastor. Tyler was to be sharing that email along with paperwork for the position posting with Mende and Kelvin.

Tyler also recommended a month to month agreement at this time. And that the position, with job description, duties for each church, and how many hours would be expected weekly, be posted for 6-8 weeks.

The committee to develop this would need to be 3 people from each church for a total of 6. These people would need to be available to meet and do the work needed. The councils will need to consider who they would like to ask to do this job. They would fill out the 5 page document. Besides the job description, the total amount of benefits would be listed along with plans for housing or a housing benefit. Carol would meet with this committee when they begin working and the document would need to be reviewed by Carol Shanks when completed.

Once the job is posted, Jay could apply as an internal candidate, but other applicants could apply as well.

When looking at other candidates, it was strongly encouraged that all 6 members of the committee go to hear the candidate preach at a neutral location.

Tyler also encouraged that we consider some more activities and ministry together.

If we are to have a joint call agreement, there would need

to be a great deal of conversation before it is made. Issues that are not discussed that come up afterward could lead to difficulties.

The two most likely options to consider are a 1 year supply contract that could be reassessed at the end of a year. A second option could be a designated term for 2-3 years to give enough time to see if the position is working out for both parties.

At the end of that term, then there could be discussion for a settled call or termination of the contract.

A congregational vote is not required for a supply or designated term call but it could be done. Tyler suggested that voting on a settled call was a more appropriate place for that kind of vote.

There was mention that keeping the information about a pastor possibly moving was important to keep confidential but also that this was a difficult task at times.

In order to pay a pastor for the membership that we actually have active, it was suggested that cleaning out the church rolls could be done now. This job might need another committee to complete it as well, for each church.

### **All Saints Day**

Sunday, November 3, we will celebrate All Saints Day. This is the day when we remember and celebrate the lives of Immanuel's members who have passed over the past year. We will have a special candle lighting ceremony during the morning worship service. Please join us for this special time of recognition and remembrance.

### **\*Veterans Day Service / Stewardship Sunday – Sunday November 10**

We will have our annual Veterans Day celebration service during our morning worship. We will be honoring our veterans who took courage, commitment, sacrifice, patriotism, integrity and pride in being a United States citizen and serving our country. We will have a special reading of members past and present who served in the military and recognize those who are present who served our country.

*"God Bless America"*



**ALL CHURCH HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
**AT THE MEYER FARM**  
**2123 COUNTY FARM ROAD**  
**3:00 PM**  
**COME IN COSTUME IF YOU WISH**  
**BONFIRE & HOT DOGS**

**Special Council Meeting 9-22-19**

All Council members were present.

First, Kelvin started by showing proposed changes to sidewalk in front of the church to be made by the city to make it ADA accessible. He showed a map from the city proposal and asked for any questions or concerns.

Second, Kelvin brought up that as a council we needed to decide on a path before moving forward. We either continue to work toward a shared pastor with Zion UCC or we consider trying to enter into a contract for a full time pastor on our own. Discussions were had about money that we have in reserves and investments and how that might be used over time. Also, we discussed what funds we may have once other financial commitments are met each month.

Also included was conversation about if a housing allowance is required component of the offer. The council unanimously agreed that we should take this decision to the congregation with a vote.

We do not plan to share information with Zion until we

see the results of the congregational vote and have something definitive to share.

An added issue, related to the pastor salary is the issue of cleaning up church membership rolls to reflect people who currently have a connection and contribution to Immanuel UCC. The decision was made to form a committee of 5 people to go through the church membership rolls. Roland Niemann volunteered to be on this committee but most of the members will not be from the council.

Having no full time organist presently, it was suggested that we may have to pay someone to perform this ministry in the future. The council is choosing to let Mildred Groeper recover and determine for herself if and when she can come back to serve as organist.

Kelvin Lashley will ask for a congregational meeting on October 6, 2019 to discuss the sidewalk, reducing membership rolls and our membership's preference for pursuing a full time pastor or a shared part time pastor in conjunction with Zion UCC.

**Reformation Sunday is October 27**

The renewing, restoring and reestablishment of the church is celebrated on this day in October. It is about the new start of the Christian church. In celebration of this special day in the life of the church, we would like to encourage everyone to wear **RED** to church that day. Come to worship on October 27 to learn more about what is so special about Reformation Sunday.



## **Congregational Meeting October 6, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Kelvin Lashley, Council President. It was determined that a quorum was present with 42 members present.

Kelvin addressed the 3 topics for the meeting as 1) deciding if we want to proceed with a full time or part time shared pastor with Zion UCC Troy, 2) reviewing church rolls, and 3) sidewalk changes in front of the church.

Kelvin shared that the salary that is recommended for a pastor with no experience is around \$54,000 per year. This amount would be a salary, housing allowance, and Social Security.

Kelvin also shared that, per our meeting with the UCC Conference representative that we would need to post this job opening for 6-8 weeks. To pay the salary for a full time pastor, the church would need to pay \$2850 more a month than we have most recently have been. To pay for a shared pastor, the church would be spending an additional \$650 per month.

Questions from congregational members were answered next. Following is the information that answered those questions:

The monthly funds coming in the collection plate for the church are about \$4000. This amount covers the monthly expenses.

There is consistently about \$32,000 in surplus funds in the general fund over the past year. This would cover the extra needed funds for a full time pastor salary for about 11 months.

Extra funds to pay a pastor's salary could be drawn from accounts, investments and certificates of deposit. These funds were donated to the church with no specific purpose or limitations on how they are spent other than for the benefit of the church.

Congregational members commented that having a pastor more involved in the church is needed to bring more members in and to encourage inactive members come back.

Church leaders at Immanuel UCC are not currently involved in the community at large as leaders of other Wright City churches that are growing.

Some feel that a shared pastor, to this point, has resulted in less personal contact particularly with homebound or ill members. Moving forward, some members would like to see more of this with a full or part time pastor.

Some members expressed the feeling, if we continue to share a pastor; Immanuel UCC should have an equal contribution to the pastor's salary as Zion UCC. This would hopefully encourage an equal commitment to the two congregations involved. There would need to be

times that two congregations compromise about events that one pastor can attend.

The observation was made that we have seen little change in participation and membership over the past year and a half. We may or may not see significant change in another year and half unless some changes are made to improve attendance.

Members asked about Jay Weisner, who is currently a frequent supply pastor. People were assured his paperwork for full licensure to be able to administer communion have been filed but this process takes some time. Members were also encouraged to make him feel welcome and to share our appreciation of his time, in order to keep Immanuel UCC an appealing option for possible future position.

Kelvin shared the opinion that Jay Weiner had shared with him when the congregation confirmed that they wanted to hear it as well. Jay feels that if he is our shared pastor, he could meet the needs of both churches. He also he feels like a better investment in our funds would be to become more involved in the community instead of spending it on pastor salary alone. He feels like a pastor's role is to keep members coming back, but that church involvement in the community is how new members come to the church first.

Lavelle Requat made a motion that we vote on this shared or full time pastor issue. Lee Fast seconded the motion which passed. Paper ballots were passed out, marked by members, collected, and tallied. The resulting vote was 18 ballots for full time pastor and 24 for shared part time pastor.

The next issue for discussion, membership rolls, was addressed next. Kelvin reported that a 5 member committee has been developed to look at these. These members are Kelvin Lashley, Roland Niemann, Lavelle Requat, Debbie Meyer, and Lee Fast. Congregation members can be dropped from the rolls, remain active or listed as inactive. The constitution of the church sets the guideline of members not in attendance or inactive in donations for 3 years can be considered for being taken off church rolls. Members would be contacted about their status and notified of changes made.

The last issue for discussion was the sidewalk changes in front of church proposed by the city. These changes would eliminate the steps and be converted into an ADA acceptable ramp. Kelvin has maps of the proposal and this work will be completed over the next year. No questions were asked on this issue at the current time.

Lavelle Requat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee Fast seconded the motion and it passed.



## Immanuel United Church of Christ – September 2019

**\$73,382.86**

### GENERAL FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$31,614.85
9/3/2019	Deposit	Offering	\$1,157.00		\$32,771.85
9/3/2019	Kelsey Peterson	#11656 August services 3 hosp visit		\$1,800.00	\$30,971.85
9/5/2019	Guide One	ACH insur prem		\$1,199.08	\$29,772.77
9/9/2019	Deposit	Offering	\$1,112.00		\$30,884.77
9/9/2019	Jay Wiesner	#11658 Sept 8/15 services		\$400.00	\$30,484.77
9/10/2019	Centurylink	ACH telephone & internet		\$203.15	\$30,281.62
9/12/2019	PWSD #2	ACH water & sewer		\$22.57	\$30,259.05
9/13/2019	Deluxe Bus System	ACH checks		\$89.31	\$30,169.74
9/13/2019	Chris Sadler	#16623 mowing 5x church		\$375.00	\$29,794.74
9/13/2019	Grace Hauling	#11659 July & Aug trash		\$80.00	\$29,714.74
9/16/2019	Deposit	Offering	\$1,497.26		\$31,212.00
9/16/2019	Ameren	ACH gas church		\$395.00	\$30,817.00
9/16/2019	Ameren	ACH electric fellowship hall		\$193.00	\$30,624.00
9/16/2019	Ameren	ACH electric church		\$265.00	\$30,359.00
9/16/2019	J & S Janitorial	#11660 cleaning august		\$276.00	\$30,083.00
9/23/2019	Deposit	Offering	\$815.64		\$30,898.64
9/24/2019	Susan Shumway	#11666 Sept 1/22 services		\$400.00	\$30,498.64
9/26/2019	Sumner One	#11667 copier agreement		\$172.00	\$30,326.64
9/30/2019	Deposit	Offering	\$1,103.42		\$31,430.06
9/30/2019	Jay Wiesner	#11669 Sept 29 service		\$200.00	\$31,230.06
9/30/2019		Accr Earning Pmnt	\$2.94		\$31,233.00
9/30/2019		Transferred to Designated Funds		\$825.00	\$30,408.00
<b>General Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:</b>			<b>\$5,688.26</b>	<b>\$6,895.11</b>	<b>\$30,408.00</b>

### PROTECT OUR CHURCH FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$10,841.25
					\$10,841.25
<b>Protect Our Church Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:</b>			<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$10,841.25</b>

### BENEVOLENT FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$839.00
9/3/2019	Deposit	OCWM	\$50.00		\$889.00
9/16/2019	Missouri Mid South Confernce	#11665		\$819.00	\$70.00
<b>Benevolent Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:</b>			<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$819.00</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>

### BUILDING FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$5,968.73
9/3/2019	Deposit	Offering	\$25.00		\$5,993.73
9/12/2019	WC Hardware	#11161		\$17.98	\$5,975.75
<b>Building Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:</b>			<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$17.98</b>	<b>\$5,975.75</b>

### MEMORIAL FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$16,681.08
<b>Memorial Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:</b>			<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$16,681.08</b>



## INDIAN CAMP CEMETERY FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$3,383.64
9/13/2019	Chris Sadler	#11662 3x mowing		\$150.00	\$3,233.64
9/18/2019	Deposit	Interest cd xxxx6121	\$5.69		\$3,239.33
9/26/2019	Deposit	Interest cd xxxx6120	\$1.13		\$3,240.46
Indian Camp Cemetery Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:			\$6.82	\$150.00	\$3,240.46

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$936.85
Scholarship Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:			\$-	\$-	\$936.85

## PARKING LOT FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$3,005.14
9/16/2019		Liberty Christian yearly use	\$750.00		\$3,755.14
Parking Lot Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:			\$750.00	\$-	\$3,755.14

## MUSIC FUND

Date	Recipient	Description	Received	Disbursed	Balance
	Beginning Balance				\$149.30
Music Fund Totals for September 30, 2019:			\$-	\$-	\$149.30

<b>SUPER NOW CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$6,520.08</b>	<b>\$7,882.09</b>	<b>\$72,020.85</b>
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### FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2019

#### GENERAL FUND OFFERING

\$ 3,741.00

DONATION-LORETTA BUESCHER BIRTHDAY	200.00
HALL RENTAL-TOMSCHIN	50.00
DONATION- CEMETARY WALK	75.00
INTEREST-AMERICAN BANK	47.26
INTEREST - AMERICAN BANK	340.42
INTEREST- AMERICAN BANK	201.64

\$ 4,655.32

#### BENEVOLENT FUND

OFFERING	50.00
OCWM	90.00
WRIGHT CITY FOOD PANTRY	5.00
NEIGHBORS IN NEED	110.00

255.00

#### BUILDING FUND

25.00

#### PARKING LOT FUND

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN PAYMENT	750.00
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\$ 5,685.32



## ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER 2019

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jason & Angela Case 1	Brenda Wilkins 3	Gloria Bruno 22
Chad & Elisabeth Thompson 5	Abby Rosemann 6	Amy Meyer 23
Whitney & John Schuenemeyer 13	Tony Gironde 7	Evelyn Schuenemeyer 24
Mary Sue & Wayne Sitton 18	Angela Jones 9	Todd Bill 26
David & Karen Cox 20	Pat Gerdeman 12	Blake Meyer 26
Aaron & Aimee Wilber 21	Stacie Clemons 13	Terri Baker 28
	Diana Schlueter 13	Joshua Rosen 28
	Elmer Vahle 17	Gerri Smith 28
	Earl Requat 21	George Jaeger 29

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On **Stewardship Sunday**, November 10, we are asking all members to consider giving "extra" with their offering.

"More blessings come from giving than receiving." (Acts 20:5)

#### In Gathering Sunday / November 24

When we help those in need in our community, we are part of God's work. All the donations will be giving to the Wright City Community Food Pantry. You can either bring in can goods or non-perishable food items to church, or place a monetary donation in the offering or mail to the church. Checks need to be payable to "Wright City Food Pantry." Please mark on memo or envelope food pantry donation. Let's show our thanks in November by sharing with others.

Our church family extends our sympathy to Margaret Ramey in the passing of her sister Frances Love. Also, to Ann Meyer & her family in the passing of Mel Meyer.

Chad, Elisabeth, Katelyn & Annabelle Thompson welcomed a new son & brother into their family on October 17. His name is Decker Allen, ""congratulations"" to their family.

President	Kelvin Lashley	636-279-0763
Vice President	Paul Saunders	636-290-6870
Secretary	Donna Jones	636-745-2954
Financial Secretary	Roland Niemann	636-745-2547
General Treasurer	Beverley Willoughby	636-384-6693
Christian Worker	Mary Sue Sitton	636-673-2265
Evangelism/Stewardship	Abby Roseman	636-384-0071
Memorial	Terry Leap	636-384-0410
Pastorial Relations	Aaron Wilber	636-579-2954

