

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Church Council Minutes

October 9, 2017

In attendance were Matthew AtLee, Jim Berlin, Katy Brandt, Bill Clarke, Ken Day, Jennifer DeVore, Al Horton, Greg Horton, Evelyn Kessler, Paige Lindblom, Irma Mahone, Frank McMullen, Bill Reusing, Meredith Rose, Ann Shaffer, Hu Shaffer, Conor Sipe, Peggy Vaughan, and Phil Woodson.

Chair Jennifer DeVore opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the July 19 meeting were approved.

Chair Reports/Updates

Endowment—Evelyn Kessler-- Evelyn reported that the value of our funds at the end of September was \$2,163,556.71. The A.V. Conway Trust Fund has been transferred to the Endowment Fund as an unrestricted fund. The amount of the transfer was \$93,169.64.

Evelyn also noted that since her last report, the \$35,000 from the Thomas Bequest that had been approved for the church budget has been distributed as have the funds to support Pastor Phil Woodson's summer course from the Thomas Fund. Also distributed have been funds from the Steele Houchens Fund to cover the cost of blinds for the windows in the Music Suite and to replace the phone system.

Pending distributions are funds for FUMP scholarships from the Thomas Preschool Scholarship Fund (\$2,423.33), Giles Fund (\$1,181.98) and the O'Neill Fund (\$500.69) requested by the Preschool treasurer.

Endowment also received a request from the Trustees for reimbursement for the cost of repairs to the organ in the amount of \$15,885. The Endowment Committee approved this distribution from the Thomas Bequest Fund. Evelyn requested that a vote be taken by the Church Council to either approve or disapprove this distribution. A motion was then made, seconded, and unanimously approved by Church Council.

In closing her report, Evelyn noted that we still have \$52,521.49 available for distribution. Any funds that are not distributed in a year may either be carried over for distribution the next year or returned to the individual fund base from which they are available.

Greg Horton—Finance

Greg noted that Council would have to approve the Pastor's salary at the November 16 Charge Conference, but he did note that we will be decreasing the new senior pastor's salary by perhaps \$10,000 but that there will be a 2% raise for all support staff.

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Greg noted also that we must pay moving expenses for new pastor in July. Greg did ask Council for approval of the 2018 proposed budget of \$851,967. Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

However, Greg did point out several items concerning our finances. One was that September was not a good month because lots of expenses come out that month. He estimates that we will be approximately \$22,000 in red for 2017 year. He noted that Thomas Wingfield gift was \$125,000 and that we might have to tap into it at some point. Also noted was that we have \$135,000 in reserve in addition to the \$125,000. We were also reminded that \$35,000 is also given from Endowment every year. Hu Shaffer suggested that most members are probably not aware of our money situation so we may need to get the word out as some members might want to reevaluate their giving.

Trustees—Steve Marazita

Steve noted that the windows are on budget so far (\$537,000) but plumbing will be coming up soon. He estimated that we would need \$91,000 for special projects for the next 5 years, including \$64,000 to redo kitchen at some point. So he said we need to put \$18,000 aside each year for these special projects.

Nurture—Paige Lindblom

Paige mentioned several items including the church picnic; she also mentioned that the Gibsons who have been doing our hospitality (such as picnic) have struggled lately so we need to thank them often. She also noted that our VBS had a smaller number this year.

On another note, she suggested that the Young Adult Ministry needs to be highlighted and that we need more young people in our church.

In closing, Paige noted that she would like a replacement for herself in her position.

Staff Parish—Frank McMullen

Frank noted that we have not hired anyone in the last few months and that we have a great staff in place. He informed us that October is Pastor Appreciation Month in our conference so we should show our appreciation even more to our pastors.

Frank said that Staff Parish is now thinking about our new pastor and what characteristics we need. His committee has sent out to various ministries' team as to what characteristics we need to carry out our church's mission. However, Frank emphasized that our church or Staff Parish team does not make the decision.

On another note, Matthew ATLee informed us that he will present himself at our next meeting to become a deacon as he has had a call to do that, perhaps as a chaplain at a hospital. He also noted that he has already been working at a hospital over these last months.

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Worship—Ann Shaffer

Ann had several announcements: Joseph Garland will be replaced as head usher at our 11 O'clock service by Mike DeVore; our chalices for Communion are being replated; Mackie may be able to repair our broken angel; Trustees are investigating the lighting in the Sanctuary at the request of the Worship Team, and November 26 will be the Hanging of the Greens.

Outreach—Conor Sipe

Conor posed the question to us of what does Outreach really mean?

He presented it as both a Compassion Ministry and one of Justice and Advocacy, such as IMPACT. He alluded to how Pastor Phil relates to Outreach. He noted that 10 of our 12 ministries fall under "compassion" and said that he would like to see more talk about Justice.

He then reminded us of the October 24 meeting of IMPACT and that the vote would be taken on the next issue that IMPACT will address, such as housing, immigration, or unemployment.

Witness—Bill Clarke

Bill alluded to our church's situation this summer during our traumatic time downtown and what attention Charlottesville's trauma has garnered for our church. He noted that our church has garnered attention from around the world and that we have been seen in a different light.

Other Business

Katy Brandt—Bridging the Gap

Katy moved here 3 years ago and is interested in "Bridging the Gap" through 2 routes of alleviating social injustice:

1. Education
2. Action

Katy feels we need to do more and become more involved with other churches and other faiths. She noted that she is working on a reading list to put on our website about meetings people might be interested in attending. Paige thanked Katy for her involvement in this movement.

Church Council was reminded of the Charge Conference on November 16 at 7 PM.

Pastor Al Horton closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Vaughan
Recording Secretary

Approved: 7 December 2017