

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA**

**Minutes of Church Council Meeting
February 19, 2018**

The meeting was convened at 7:01 pm.

Those present include Priscilla Sprague, Bill Clarke, Hu Shaffer, Ann Shaffer, Patt Keats, Evelyn Kessler, Lillian Marsden, Al Horton, Larry Brower, Frank McMullen, Matt At Lee, Carolyn McGee, Greg Horton, Jim Berlin, Alex Erwine, Bill Reusing, Guy Moffett, Steve Marazita, Phil Woodson, Ken Day, Conor Sipe, Julie Marazita, Cayla Camunas, Katy Brandt, Elizabeth Newton, Meredith Rose, Rachel Barker, Patricia Hott, and Harriet Lambert.

Bill Clarke opened the meeting with a devotion.

Everyone introduced themselves and stated their position on the Church Council.

Unanimous consent agenda: Committee and Team meeting notes/reports/minutes. We voted on all 16 pages as one motion. Priscilla Sprague made the motion to approve the consent agenda, and Bill Clarke seconded the motion. All items were unanimously approved.

The minutes of the December 7, 2017 Church Council Meeting were distributed by email in advance of the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Evelyn Kessler, seconded by Larry Brower, and approved unanimously.

Finance Chair, Greg Horton, presented the financial report. Greg thanked Jeannie Gentry and Bill Reusing for their help. We ended 2017 with a deficit of almost \$42,000. Funds from the Thomas Wingfield bequest were used to eliminate that deficit, and we ended the year not owing anything.

Greg reported that the approved budget expenses for 2018 are about \$20,000 less than last year. He went over the breakdown of estimated revenue/income from the finance report. The Finance Committee has asked the Endowment Committee for \$50,000 this year rather than the usual \$35,000 to apply to the budget. Also projected in the budget is the use of the remaining \$75,000 of the Thomas Wingfield bequest. This would reduce our projected 2018 deficit from \$91,577 to \$16,577.

Greg received the January 2018 financial reports from Jeannie Gentry and Bill Reusing. Our pledged offering for January was \$26,400; non-pledged offering around \$8,000; loose plate offering around \$1,700. For January, we had a deficit of \$16,700. The Finance Team will keep an eye on the numbers and will ask the work areas to make adjustments to their expenses if

needed as we go along. Pastor Phil suggested that attendance and giving may have been down for January because of bad weather and illness. He recommended that we encourage automatic online giving so that persons who cannot attend may still contribute.

Evelyn Kessler thanked the church staff for coming to the rescue of the Bread and Blessings soup kitchen on February 19, 2018, when some regular volunteers were absent or ill.

The Endowment Chair, Evelyn Kessler, pointed out that there are 11 accounts in the Endowment. Most are designated but 3 funds are not. The Endowment Committee must also have Church Council approval before funds can be dispersed from undesignated accounts. About 4% of a three-year end-of-year average balance in each account is available for distribution per year. This year, \$133,217 is available for distribution. This committee meets four times per year to address requests for funds.

The Endowment Committee has been asked by the Finance Committee to provide \$50,000 for the operating budget if requested this year rather than the traditional \$35,000 request. Evelyn made a motion to approve moving \$50,000 from the Thomas Bequest Fund to the Church operating budget. Bill Reusing seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Steve Marazita, Chair of Trustees, said Trustees would like to build a reserve fund for anticipated repairs and replacements, since there are usually no extra funds in the budget when these needs urgently arise. Trustees has developed a five-year plan for projected repairs and replacements. Evelyn made the following request, which was previously approved by the Endowment Committee, "Motion that Church Council approve the amount of \$100,000 for the Trustee Contingency Fund (TCF), with 1/5 of that amount [\$20,000] being distributed to the TCF from the Endowment annually, for a period of five years, upon an annual request from Trustees beginning February 1, 2018, with any unused funds staying in the TCF". Frank McMullen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Greg Horton made the motion that we vote to approve the entire 2018 operating budget. (Only the expense side of the budget was approved at the October 2017 meeting.) Bill Clarke seconded. After a lengthy discussion for clarification, the motion was approved unanimously. Bill Reusing assured us that we will have a financial cushion for the next 2-3 years in the designated and reserve funds.

Pastor Al Horton reported for the Nominating Committee. There are two vacancies – one on the Board of Trustees and one on the Endowment committee. Al submitted two names for approval – Dustin Newton for the Board of Trustees for the Class of 2019 and Kyle Rose for the Endowment Committee for the Class of 2019. Evelyn Kessler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Scouting Chartered Organization Representative Ken Day informed the Church Council that, should Cub Scout Pack 36 move to have girls in the Pack, Church Council would have to give its approval. As described, girls and boys would have separate Dens but would meet together in

Pack meetings. A motion to approve the Cub Scout Pack Full Family Program was made by Ken. Priscilla Sprague seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ken Day announced that the Tassell Scholarship Fund will be open again for 2018. Scholarships are available to high school seniors in one of the scouting programs (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, etc.) who are current members of FUMC. There is \$16,000 plus in the fund.

Steve Marazita spoke about the Church Safety Team. Al Horton and Lyndsay Harshman are chairing this team, but volunteers are needed to help develop a safety/security plan. Steve mentioned that Jim O'Kelley gave a presentation about church security to the Trustees.

Hu Shaffer made a proposal to form a Ministry Council. This would be a smaller working group of Church Council members to plan, communicate, lead, and oversee the church's program ministries and calendar. This Ministry Council would meet on alternate months from the Church Council. The Ministry Council would report to the Church Council. A motion to approve the Ministry Council was made by Hu and seconded by Lillian Marsden. The motion was approved unanimously.

Al Horton suggested that an article about the Ministry Council would be a good idea for the March Focus. The *Focus* deadline is March 2.

Lillian Marsden, the Church Historian, showed us a three-ring binder containing five sections: First Church's history up to 1984 celebrating 200 years of Methodism; the history from 1984 to 1999 after the first major renovation; the history from 1999 to 2008; and the history from 2008 to 2018. There is an addendum containing the names of current and past ministers and church staff. Copies will be available in the Church Library and in the office of the Executive Assistant. Everyone extended a "thank you" to Lillian for documenting our history for a great many years.

Frank McMullen spoke on the status of our new minister. The decision is in the hands of the Bishop. No news yet.

Carolyn McGee would like to see the Shepherd Ministry become active again. There are a couple of folks still engaged in the Shepherd Ministry after it was reactivated a few years back by Kelly Henning and Megan Eddy. Patty Taylor, Carolyn McGee and Al Horton will re-introduce this program, but volunteers will be needed.

Pastor Phil Woodson reminded everyone to sign up for PACEM. Fifty-five slots are still open.

Our meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Horton.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Lambert

Approved: 16 April 2018