

Charlottesville City Cooperative Parish Council Meeting

January 16, 2023

Members in Attendance: Lisa Hanrahan(Chair), Alex Joiner, Cindy Remington, Paige Lindblom, Bill Clarke, Dana Palmer, Frank McMullen, Jim Berlin, Jeff Taylor, Dubie Dubendorfer, Lisa Mann, Priscilla Sprague (recording secretary)

Others in Attendance: John Sykes, Charles Kidd, Guy Moffatt, Hu Shaffer, Dave Wheatley, Fred Schneider, Vicky Sykes, Ed Denham, George Batten, Tom Ashley

Lisa Hanrahan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Bill Clarke gave the devotional.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Proposed Merger Agreement for FUMC and Hinton Avenue Churches: Council members had received the proposed merger agreement to review in advance of the meeting. The document has been developed by a joint “taskforce” who have spent many hours working together to create a plan for moving forward. A copy of this document is attached to these minutes. There was some brief discussion regarding the proposed Mission Statement, but the consensus was to keep it as written since church mission statements tend to be rewritten every few years anyway, just to keep up with changes in the community and the world. We all want to acknowledge the sacrifice Hinton Avenue members are making to accomplish this merger and to honor these members as they join with FUMC. The Hinton Avenue members have already voted to accept this proposal as written.

The plan is to publish the draft merger agreement and notify all members of an upcoming church conference to vote on merger. The church conference would be held simultaneously with Hinton Avenue’s church conference. The District Superintendent will set the date but the hope is that it could be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 following the morning worship service. The council would like to have all completed by February 1, 2023.

Jim Berlin moved to accept the document as written and within the proposed timeline. He did include that a minor delay may occur if we are not able to get a Church Conference within that timeframe as we are required to have the district superintendent present at the called conference. The motion was seconded by Jeff Taylor and approved unanimously by council member vote. Members of Council voting affirmative: 14 members – Lisa Hanrahan, Alex Joyner, Cindy Remington, Priscilla Sprague, Paige Lindblom, Bill Clarke, Dana Palmer, Frank McMullen, Jim Berlin, Jeff Taylor, Dubie Dubendorfer, Lisa Mann, as well as the 2

representatives from the Trustees Council. There was no youth member at large nor Church Historian present at the meeting.

SAS Invitation: There is a free Zoom presentation explaining the principles of SAS (Simplified Accountable Structure) scheduled for Thursday evening, January 19. Contact Lisa for registration information. Attached is an overview of SAS, which, in essence, is a simplified structure of church governance utilizing one board that wears multiple hats. Jack Schneider reviewed the shift to SAS the members of Hinton Ave Church decided upon about a year ago. They have found it to be a much more efficient way of managing the “work” of the church. He told us they generally start with a rather lengthy devotion that consumes about 25% of the meeting time and then move on to the issues of the church. Their most recent discussions have entered on the disposition of their church building. There will be ongoing discussion of SAS for all church members and leaders in the coming months.

Financial Report: Jeff Taylor presented the financial report. He noted that we had a significant increase in donations in the last few months of the year compared to 2021. That increase seemed to coincide with the Consecration Sunday program. He noted the increase in donations really trended upward in the second half of the year, ending at \$46,000 higher than 2021. This amount was less than budgeted but was offset by some restricted gifts during the year. Jeff’s detailed report is attached to these minutes. He did mention the possibility of adding solar panels to the church roof. This potential addition would result in significant electricity savings for the church in years to come. It appears that as a result of Consecration Sunday, our pledges increased 34% over last year. This does not include the Hinton Avenue pledge cards.

Pastor’s Report: Alex is very pleased with the increased giving at the end of the year and expressed his gratitude to Gary Jones and his team for their effort. He issued an invitation to Council Members to host lunch for the 13 New Members Class group. Citizen Burger Bar is the location of choice. Please meet there at 12:30 if you can come to meet and welcome these potential new members. He also mentioned the Fresh Expressions Class that was led by a group at Aldersgate UMC. This program illustrates ways to extend the Church outside the Church via small group gatherings. One example given is the hiking group that Dave Wheatley and Lara Upton have been leading. They’ve had a great response to the hikes so far and the group is growing.

Other Items: Cindy Remington reminded everyone that we will be participating in “Rise Against Hunger” program on April 15. About 40 volunteers are needed – some with good “muscles” as the lifting can get heavy. Youth are strongly encouraged to participate as there are multiple tasks they can take on.

Dismissal: Alex closed the meeting with a prayer and Lisa adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM. Our next meeting will be on February 20 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Sprague, Recording Secretary

Attachments: