

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA**

**Minutes of Church Council Meeting
April 16, 2018**

The meeting was convened at 7 p.m.

Those present include Hu Shaffer, Jim Berlin, Bill Clarke, Greg Horton, Carolyn McGee, Patt Keats, Bill Reusing, Evelyn Kessler, Ken Day, Patricia Hott, Scott Barker, Rachel Barker, Alex Erwine, Julie Marazita, Steve Marazita, Priscilla Sprague, Ann Shaffer, Al Horton, Michelle Krentz, Harriet Lambert, Phil Woodson, and Katy Brandt.

Priscilla Sprague opened the meeting with a prayer.

Bill Clark presented a devotion.

Unanimous consent agenda: Committee and Team meeting notes/minutes/reports were sent to everyone by email ahead of the meeting. We voted to accept unanimous consent agenda, and all items were unanimously approved.

The minutes of the February 19, 2018 meeting were presented. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Greg Horton presented the financial report. We are currently about \$38,000 under our unbalanced budget for the year. However, when looking at the Analysis of Revenues & Expenses statement, there is almost a \$24,000 deficit for the month of March and a \$38,254 deficit for the first quarter of the year. No action will be taken at this time by the Finance Committee. Katy Brandt mentioned that we should inform folks that they can give on line. The church was fortunate to be mentioned in Virginia Woodford's will. Her estate left the church \$10,000. The bequest was undesignated. Wells Fargo will handle the estate. We need a resolution to appoint a person to act on behalf of the church. We will identify Greg Horton to act on behalf of the church. There are three forms that need to be filled out. Greg, Jane Clarke, and Pastor Al are working on the forms. A motion to give Greg Horton the authority to act on behalf of the church to receive the bequest was made by Bill Reusing, and Priscilla Sprague seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no nay votes.

Pastor Al Horton reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee would like to nominate Jocelyn Prostko to fill out the term of Jan Bonner on the Board of Trustees. Pastor Al Horton made a motion to approve Jocelyn Prostko, and Priscilla Sprague seconded the motion. The motion was approved with no nay votes.

Katy Brant spoke about the Open-Door Initiative. In July 2017, the Church Council approved the Open-Door Initiative. However, we failed to pass any motion to fund the program or determine where the funds would come from. The church would be open each day from 1 to 6 p.m. The Witness Team would like to request funds for a 6-month trial - \$14,425. These funds would be for signs, part-time staff person's salary, alarm system, startup cost, etc. A motion was made by Katy to fund the Open Doors Initiative budget for a period of 6 months from the Thomas Trustees Fund # 80554 (Future Initiatives). Ann Shaffer seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed.

All large gifts and bequests given to the church must go through the Trustees and are managed by the Trustees or their designees. The Newton and Wilma Thomas Trust Fund was established from a 2009 bequest to First UMC for General Religious Purposes (not designated). Initially, Church Council agreed to give 10% (a tithe) through competitive grants to other non-profit organizations. The remainder of the Thomas bequest was divided into four funds with different purposes. Two funds have already been depleted, and there are two remaining funds – the Extending FUMC Ministries Fund (# 80552) and the Future Initiatives Fund (# 80554). These funds still reside with the Trustees and are invested with the Virginia Conference Foundation, but allocations must be approved by Church Council. Because these two funds are specifically dedicated to supporting our church's program ministries, the Trustees voted to move them to the Ministry Council for investment and allocation decisions. Allocations from the funds must still be approved by Church Council. The Ministry Council has voted to receive these funds if Church Council approves the transfer of administrative responsibility to them. There was a motion to approve by Bill Clarke, and Bill Reusing seconded the motion. There was a vote, and it was passed with no nay votes.

Next request for action was from the Ministry Council in the form of a three- part motion (1) that the two Thomas Trustees Funds # 80552 and # 80554 be combined into a single designated fund, termed the Wilma Thomas FUMC Ministries Fund and (2) that this fund be expressly used only for First UMC program ministries, and (3) that all monetary allocations from the new fund shall require approval of Church Council upon a recommendation from the Ministry Council. Priscilla Sprague made a motion to accept the three-parts as one package, and Steve Marazita seconded the motion. Bill Clarke requested and received further confirmation that the transferred funds would be used only for First UMC program ministries of Worship, Witness, Outreach and Nurture. Funds would continue to be invested. After much discussion, the first part of the three-part motion (above) was eliminated through a friendly amendment, but the other two parts were approved with no nay votes.

Steve Marazita reported on the Church security/safety plan. Pastor Al and Lindsay Harshman have about four or five persons interested in being on the safety planning team. Trustees will ask them to look at our liability (sexual misconduct) for the church. First UMC insurance has been with State Farm for some time. The church is also getting a quote from Church Mutual. Have not received anything back at this time.

Learning and Visioning – Hu hopes to make this a part of each meeting.

There are important issues in the world-wide United Methodist Church (UMC) of which everyone should become familiar. A 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to give them recommendations regarding the church's stand on Human Sexuality and specifically whether 1) to permit same sex marriages to be performed in United Methodist Churches and 2) to allow ordination of LGBTQ clergy. (Neither of these are currently allowed.) The Commission will be reporting its recommendations to the United Methodist Council of Bishops at the end of this month or early next month. In February 2019, there will be a special called General Conference to receive the Bishop's recommendations, hold discussions, and vote on the issues of same sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ clergy in the UMC. The Commission on a Way Forward currently has two possible sketches for the Bishops to consider – a One Church Model and a Multi-Branch: One Church Model. These were included in a handout to Church Council members. It was emphasized that we all need to stay informed as these issues are addressed.

Our meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Al.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Lambert

Approved June 18, 2018