

First United Methodist Church
Charlottesville, Virginia
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2020

The Church Council meeting was a Virtual Meeting – Zoom with 22 persons present.

The Church Council meeting was opened by Matt At Lee.

The opening devotions were given by Rev. Gary Heaton. The Church Council participated in a Wesleyan Covenant Service.

The minutes of the November 16, 2020 Church Council meeting were circulated in advance by email. After a correction, the minutes of the Church Council were unanimously approved. The minutes of the Church Council should be on the church website. Patricia and Robbie Hott will add them to the website.

Trustees Report – Guy Moffett. We have an agreement on the lease with Charlottesville Preschool, but they may not use the space until March or maybe not at all. We have seven trustees, several staff and members helping with the facilities management. Small groups can still meet at the church, but they must go online, fill out a form to register and send it to the office. The group will then be called to confirm the time. Brandon Henning and Charles Kidd are taking care of PACEM. The guest will be at our church starting on January 2, 2021.

Endowment Report – Evelyn Kessler. The total balance in the Funds at the end of November was \$2,408,045.21. In November distributions were made in the amount of \$10,000 from the Conway Trust Fund and \$10,000 from the Thomas Bequest Fund to the Trustee's Contingency. An amount of \$35,000 was distributed from the Thomas Bequest Fund to support the 2020 budget. The Committee met by Zoom on November 23 and approved the \$15,000 requested for support of the reopening of the preschool. We also voted to carry over any funds available for distribution in 2020 that were not distributed to be added to the calculated amount available for 2021.

Nominations – Rev. Gary Heaton. At Charge Conference, when we elected our leaders, we were missing a Recording Secretary and a Nurture Chair. Ida Cummings was endorsed at our last Church Council to be our Recording Secretary. I would like to get the endorsement from Church Council for Cary Miller to serve as Nurture Chair. We have a motion from Nominations to approve Cary Miller as acting Chair of Nurture. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPRC – Jim Campbell. The SPRC met on December 6. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the one or two pastor scenarios for FUMC. After discussion, the following

resolution was passed unanimously. We request that our District Superintendent recommend to the Bishop and Cabinet that a single pastor be sent to FUMC beginning July 2021.

We also have been working to obtain a Youth Coordinator. The position has been advertised. We have two local candidates who have applied for the job. Both candidates have experience working with youth and they both have PHD's. A small committee will conduct the interviews next week and we will proceed from there. One candidate will be offered the position after the first of the year.

Beth Heaton has been acting as the administrative person in the office and several people have been helping including Charles Kidd, who has been working with facilities. We are looking to do a combined position of facilities manager and someone to do admin.

Finance Report – Jim Berlin. Last year we had 105 pledges for \$407,000. Currently we have 82 pledges for \$334,000. In January we will follow up with folks to see if they plan to pledge again for 2021. This year the conference asked us to pay 73% of our apportionments. For 2021 they are asking us to pay 82%. This will save us about \$20,000. In November we took in just under \$90,000 which is a good number. \$35,000 of this is from Endowment. Another thing helping us out is that we are spending about \$125,729.82 less than we did last year. We have about four months of operating expenses on hand. We have received a large gift from Richard Gilliam and his Family. They plan to donate \$50,000 to the church this year. This number will show in our January financials. We should exit the year with between \$250,000-\$300,000 which is where we need to be. All of the \$63,100 PPP loan is in the operations cash total. We estimate about \$6,000 to be returned. A propose budget for January – June 2021 was presented to the council for review. Finance will begin to work on the budget for July-December 2021 early next year. The Finance Committee is proposing the budget for the first six months. Since there was no discussion, the budget was passed unanimously.

Matt At Lee thanked everyone for serving on the Church Council this year. He looks forward to working with everyone in 2021. For those who are going off council, he also thanked everyone that had served.

We are looking forward to 2021. We have talked about themes to explore and Matt is very encouraged. We have a budget to go and staff positions. We have a good foundation to go forward. What does doing more nurture look like?

Support our elderly members or caretakers for elderly people/ Being creative and reaching out to members who are isolated/Forming smaller groups/Weekday ministry/affordable childcare/parent groups/ministry to young families/Young adults who are single or do not have kids/groups that are social as well as ministry groups/In service nurture – those that have a need/nurture people when we come out of Covid-19- how will be care for them/connecting with people/people are missing connections/ men's group – study books and have social activities/opportunities to serve together/Disciple Bible Study/Being accountable with another person.

What kind of church do we want to be going forward? Have small groups and get to know the people/Find opportunities and equip people to nurture others. We have a better idea of what we want for the church. We need to focus on actions this year that we can do now. We could offer leaders and lay members a half day seminar in February via zoom. We can find people to run the seminar.

Our next Church Council Meeting will be January 18, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Rev. Gary Heaton closed our meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Lambert

Recording Secretary

Church Council