

**First United Methodist Church  
Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
August 20, 2018**

Those present included Hu Shaffer, Rachel Barker, Scott Barker, Meredith Rose, Katy Brandt, Phil Woodson, Ann Shaffer, Evelyn Kessler, Ron Comfort, Patt Keats, Bill Clarke, Greg Horton, Bill Reusing, Gary Heaton, Frank McMullen, Patricia Hott, and Harriet Lambert

The meeting was opened by Hu Shaffer.

Bill Clarke presented the devotion and opening prayer.

Unanimous consent agenda: Committee, Team and Staff meeting written reports/minutes/notes were submitted to everyone via email prior to the meeting. Evelyn Kessler made a correction to the Endowment Committee spreadsheet. Returns for Balanced Fund YTD end of June 2018 should be (.85%) not (90.850%). Frank McMullen made a comment regarding endowment that we should be more aggressive seeking folks to contribute to our endowment. This has helped the church through the years, and we would have been in a different situation had we not had these funds. Bill Clarke made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as corrected, and Evelyn Kessler seconded the motion. All items were then unanimously approved.

The minutes of the June 18, 2018 Church Council meeting were circulated in advance by email. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Evelyn Kessler, seconded by Frank McMullen and was approved unanimously.

Greg Horton presented the financial report. We had, at the end of July, almost a \$105,000 surplus. Finance usually asked for \$35,000 each year, from the Endowment Fund, for the budget. We anticipated having financial trouble this year and asked for \$50,000 from the Thomas Bequest. Also, we received an additional \$80,000 from the Thomas Wingfield Estate. Also, we received a \$10,000 check from the Virginia Woodford Estate. Had we not had these funds we would have had a deficit of \$25,000 in July. In October, we anticipate receiving a large pledge. The worst-case scenario, we could have a \$12,000 deficit for 2018 but we feel we will be in good shape for 2018. There will be a Stewardship Campaign in October. Bill Reusing commented that the Church Council approved the budget of \$150,000 in the red in 2017. For 2018 we budgeted a deficit of about \$92,500. With deficits through the year, we can expect to be in the red.

Action item – Hu Shaffer read the following as a motion: The Ministry Council recommends that Church Council authorize the Nurture and Witness Teams to expend up to \$3,000 from the

Thomas FUMC Ministries Fund #80552 to hold a Carter Mountain Fellowship Evening with dinner on September 9, 2018. Current fund balance is \$128,782. Meredith Rose seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

A12 (August 12) – Katy Brandt reported that the Safe Sanctuary program was a success on the church's part. Our church opened its doors to many different groups. We had about 37 FUMC Volunteers and about 60 community members come through the church.

Congregational survey – This survey will be given out to the church in September through email and maybe the youth will have ipads to help folks fill out the survey before worship. Survey is for confirmation youth as well as members of the church. The purpose of the survey is looking for ways to connect folks to the church and update the demographics of the church. Members of the council gave suggestions on how to improve the survey. Katy Brandt reported that about 20 folks had already filled out the survey. Katy will make some changes before it goes out again.

Ministry Fair – Katy Brandt reported that there will be a Ministry Fair the last week of September after the 11 a.m. worship. There will be tables set up in the Fellowship Hall with 15 different ministries with representatives and handouts. There will be activities for the Youth and lunch for everyone. There will be sign-up sheets at each table, so folks can sign up for programs that are of interest. There was discussion about the time of the event and other details.

Church security/safety plan – Gary Heaton reported. Church Council requested Trustees, a few months ago, for a plan regarding security. Trustees contacted Nurture to see if they would take on this task. Nurture has embraced the task. Nurture will come up with a Safe Sanctuary Policy. They will address four topics that need to happen – (1) They will begin writing the policy for the church, (2) Discuss protection of at-risk people in the church. (3) and (4) could not be immediately recalled by Gary. A team is needed to respond to threats or unruly folks and until the team is ready we will use a security person (Jay). Our Facebook page was hacked on August 12, but everything is alright at this time.

Filling interim vacancies on Church Council – Hu Shaffer. We have several vacancies. If we know of folks to fill out the terms, please let Gary Heaton know. We need a chair for the Outreach Team, someone to fill an opening on the Endowment committee, and Scouting Chartered Organization Representative before the Cub Scout Pack can recharter in February 2019.

Parking – Bill Clarke said we are no longer allowed to park in the Stedman House lot or the Carson & Keller Insurance lot. The parking map will be updated as soon as they find it online.

Gary Heaton mentioned that ten members of the staff had a retreat on 8-20. He would like to hear what the staff thought of the outing. Church Council members should reach out to the staff.

Charge Conference is Nov 28. Hopefully, we will have a budget, lay leadership and visions and goals for 2019 in place for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Hu Shaffer.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Lambert  
Church Council Secretary