

**First United Methodist Church
Charlottesville, Virginia**

**Minutes of Church Council Meeting
June 18, 2018**

The meeting was convened at 7:10 PM, immediately following a Called Charge Conference.

Those present included Hu Shaffer, Jim Berlin, Carolyn McGee, Steve Marazita, Evelyn Kessler, Ann Shaffer, Lillian Marsden, Matthew At Lee, Meredith Rose, Bill Clarke, Katy Brandt, Alex Erwine, Phil Woodson, Harry Kennon, Patricia Hott, Michelle Krentz, Conor Sipe, Bill Reusing, Frank Mc Mullen, Joe Posey, Al Horton

Priscilla Sprague opened the meeting with a prayer.

Bill Clarke presented the devotion.

Unanimous consent agenda: Committee and Team meeting minutes/notes/reports were submitted to everyone via email prior to the meeting. All items were unanimously approved.

Bill Reusing presented the financial report. We had, at the end of May, a deficit of \$78,441.00. There was much discussion regarding the deficit and offsetting it now with available endowment funds (\$50,000) and prepaid pledges (\$30,000) rather than prorating those funds throughout the year. We have a number of expenses that are significantly less than we budgeted for, and these will also improve the bottom line at the end of the year.

Jim Berlin noted that, without the funds from endowment and one-time gifts, our anticipated deficit by years' end would be ~\$180,000. We all need to be very cognizant of this when planning for next year's spending. Much discussion ensued regarding stewardship and the discipleship aspect of giving. It was recognized that the endowment, bequests, and one-time gifts will eventually run out, and we need to prepare for a time when the church will not have these to fall back on.

The decision was previously made by Church Council that any program ministry needing funds outside the annual budget should petition the Ministry Council, since they are charged with administration of two Thomas funds. This does not imply there isn't money available; merely states the step needed to ask for funding.

Virginia Annual Conference Reports:

- Meredith Rose presented on *A Way Forward*. The Council of Bishops is recommending "The One Church Plan". Their final report is due to be published in early July.
- Katy Brandt read from a Resolution [in the *Book of Reports* of the Virginia Annual Conference, pp. 165-6], entitled, *Commendation and Encouragement post*

Charlottesville August 2017, submitted by Virginia Conference Board of Church & Society, recognizing First UMC for providing a safe space and healing ministries during and after the August 2017 violence in Charlottesville. A plaque was also presented commending our church, Congregate Charlottesville, and the Charlottesville Clergy Collective.

- Bill Clarke reported the United Methodist Church has taken a firm stand condemning the separation of children from their families at our southern border.

Trustees Report

- Safety/Security Plan update – the planning team needs more volunteers.
- Insurance for FUMC – has sourced insurance from a new provider, Church Mutual Insurance, that specializes in church protection. Coverage has been adjusted to meet our needs. We are now better covered than previously and have saved several thousand dollars as well.

Witness Team

- Katy Brandt reported that Jason Kessler has made it public that he definitely intends to return to Charlottesville on August 12, 2018, a Sunday, this year. As a pre-emptive safety move, worship on that Sunday will be held at the Hinton Avenue Methodist Church. There will be services at 9:00 and 11:00. FUMC will be open as a safe space only.
- Training and orientation sessions for those wanting to participate in the safe space activities will be conducted in July, in advance of the August 12, 2018 “anniversary.”

Onboarding Process for Pastor Heaton

- Frank McMullen, chair of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee, has had several opportunities to meet with our incoming pastor, Gary Heaton. Gary has requested members of Church Council to complete a questionnaire that will give him some insight to our priorities for our new pastor. Frank distributed a handout that includes the questions. It is requested that we complete these by the time Gary arrives in the beginning of July.

Scouting at First Church

- There is a large, active Cub Scout Pack at FUMC that has been in existence for decades. Scouting BSA requires us to have a Chartered Organization Representative to be a liaison between the church and the Pack. Ken Day has been in this position for several years, but he and Kathy have left FUMC; therefore, he is no longer qualified to continue in the role. We need a new representative, man or woman, in order for the Cub Pack at FUMC to be rechartered in 2019. Hu asked that the names of possible candidates be sent to him.

Closing Prayer was offered by Pastor Emeritus Harry Kennon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Priscilla Sprague, Acting Church Council Secretary