

# **First United Methodist Church**

**Charlottesville, Virginia**

## **Minutes of Church Council Meeting**

**October 15, 2018**

Those present included Hu Shaffer, Patt Keats, Evelyn Kessler, Ann Shaffer, Lillian Marsden, Dick Marsden, Frank McMullen, Bill Clarke, Cindy Poots Remington, E. N. Garnett, Alex Erwine, Gary Heaton, Greg Horton, Bill Reusing, Matt At Lee, Meredith Rose, Katy Brandt, Steve Marazita, Patricia Hott, Rachel Barker, Priscilla Sprague, Phil Woodson, and Harriet Lambert.

The meeting was opened by Hu Shaffer.

Bill Clarke presented the devotion and opening prayer.

The minutes of the August 20, 2018 Church Council meeting were circulated in advance by email. Since there were no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Greg Horton presented the financial report. At this point in the year, we have received several gifts that have been incorporated into the 2018 operating budget. We received \$50,000 gift from Endowment, a \$80,000 gift from The Thomas Wingfield Estate and \$10,000 gift from the Virginia Woodford Estate. The trustees have approved that the funds from the Thomas Wingfield Estate and the Virginia Woodford Estate to be used towards the budget. We have had a good September. Our revenue was around \$51,000 and our expenses were around \$47,000. This gave us a surplus for September of about \$3,700. Year to date we have a surplus of a little less than \$30,000. Finances are looking good for the rest of the year. We are in the mist of our Stewardship Campaign for 2019. Jim Berlin and Roger Higgins have spoken during the worship services the last two Sundays. Bill Reusing indicated that there have been 15 pledge cards turned in amounting to about \$104,000. There are pledge cards on each table tonight. Pledge cards have not been mailed by the church to members. Bill Reusing said that things are looking better, and we will end the year on a good note.

Unanimous Consent Agenda: Committee, Team and Staff meeting written reports/minutes/notes were submitted to everyone via email prior to the meeting. Ann Shaffer made an addition to the Worship Team Report – Evelyn Kessler was present at the meeting. Meredith Rose made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as corrected, and Matt At Lee seconded the motion. All items were then unanimously approved.

We have two action items tonight. Hu read the first item – The Ministry Council recommends that Church Council authorize the Nurture and Witness Teams to spend up to \$3,000.00 from the Thomas FUMC Ministries Fund #80552 to support the Christmas Dinner on December 9 and the Christmas Lunch on December 16, 2018. (This is to repurpose the money previously approved for the Carter Mountain Fellowship that had to be cancelled in September because of the weather.) Rachel Barker made the motion to repurpose the \$3,000.00 and Cindy Remington seconded the motion. Katy Brandt said we will not sell tickets this year for the Christmas Dinner, but we will have baskets out for the Advent donations. This item was unanimously approved.

The second action discussion began with a video about the Friends of Ft. Liberte – Jericho Village. The mission team is in Haiti now. E. N. Garnett asked for our continued support for this project. Our church and other groups have been very financially supportive of this project. One hundred percent of the money will go into the Haiti economy to pay for supplies and local labor. Matching funds have been more than met for the first \$25,000. We have already raised about \$55,000 toward a goal of \$115K. There is a second \$25,000 that needs to be matched. The wall is already up around the Jericho Village, the latrine has been completed, the well is already installed, three duplexes are complete, and the kitchen is complete. Evelyn Kessler stated that the Endowment Committee came up with a matching grant of up to \$9,000 from the Wilma Thomas Fund. This will not be distributed until next year. Cindy Remington made the motion to accept the matching grant of up to \$9,000 for the Jericho Village Project and Priscilla Sprague seconded the motion. The item was unanimously approved.

Katy Brandt gave us an update on the congregational survey. The Witness Team has received 36 responses to the survey. They expected to receive 200 at the most. Folks who responded are mostly over 50 years of age. They indicate a preference to receive information from the church via email, followed by text, followed by phone and last of all via mail. There was interest in Pacem and Rise Against Hunger and a lot of interest in worship (ushers, greeters, acolytes). They were also interested in small groups, including men's groups, with a preference for Wednesday evenings. Survey respondents would like to do thing together as families (church wide) – Pot luck dinners, picnics, camping, etc. Cindy Remington said a lot of folks were not aware of the survey, and Katy indicate that we will broadcast it more.

The Ministry Fair was well represented with about 50 or so people attending. All ministries were well represented, especially the Worship Team. Our expenses were about \$700 for food. Some folks on the Outreach Team thought the fair was not a good use of their time. We will try again next year with a few changes.

Meredith Rose spoke regarding new branding for First UMC, Charlottesville. Everything we have now has a slightly different logo. A group is working together to come up with a new logo for the church. There will be a new website logo, t-shirts, letterheads, mugs, etc. with the new image. All items will be of a high quality for folks to purchase at a reasonable cost. Meredith encouraged members to give her ideas.

Alex Erwine spoke about our church security/safety plan update. Our door access codes for the church will change on November 1. The committee is still working on the safe sanctuary policy. There are background checks for all Sunday school teacher. Our Sunday School policy is that a teacher is never alone with a single child. All persons in the church should be in pairs as a minimum, never alone – the buddy system.

Bill Clarke informed us that Pastor Remigijus from Kaunas UMC, Lithuania, will be at our church November 15-18. There will be three services and possibly a reception on that Sunday, so hopefully everyone will be able to attend.

Bill Reusing mentioned that there was a session for new members on Oct 10; however, no one attended. There are names in the computer of folks (about 20) who are attending and providing financial offerings. Perhaps they should be contacted to see if they would like to join. Pastor Gary Heaton would like to see the church grow. He would like us to change our terminology of "joining" and use an image of

“belonging” instead. He would like to have a meeting one time per quarter for potential new members. Members of the congregation should make it a point to invite folks to join the church. Hu mentioned that there are 60-80 members in the Cub Scout Pack (6 to 10-year-old children) that meets here at the church. Perhaps we could check this group of parents to find new members for the church.

Pastor Gary asked that we be in prayer for the minister (Pastor Robert) and the congregation of Hinton Avenue UMC. Pastor Robert will be going on leave. Pastor Al Horton will be filling in during his absence.

Our next Church Council meeting will be Monday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 308. The Annual Charge Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Gary Heaton.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Lambert

Church Council Secretary