



## First United Methodist Church

419 NE First Street, Gainesville FL 32601  
352-372-8523 <http://fumcgnv.org>

*As members, we promise to be loyal to the Church  
and uphold it with our presence,  
our prayers, our gifts, and our service.*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING May 27, 2008**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Devotion**

#### **Minutes**

#### **Staff Reports**

1. Pre-School Director – Amy Watson
2. Robert Jackson – Director of Music
3. Nathan Carden – Pastor of Children, Youth, Christian Education
4. Carl Romey – Assistant Pastor
5. Harold Henderson – Senior Pastor

#### **Old Business**

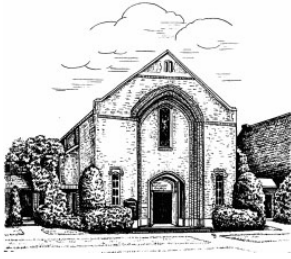
1. Committee Highlights – essential items of interest at Council level
2. Discussion of future ministries – separate discussion paper(s) to be distributed.
  - a. presentations on areas under committee study (if not covered in staff reports)
  - b. break into small groups for discussion

#### **New Business**

#### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: June 24, 2008**



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*Catch our vision to...present Jesus Christ positively.  
Make and encourage disciples, relieve suffering*

### COUNCIL MINUTES May 27, 2008

Welcome and devotion.

Minutes - Approved as submitted and distributed.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Committee Highlights**

*Staff Parish Committee*, Jim Nation, Chair - Recommendation to the Council that the Church employ two persons, half-time, to cover the responsibilities that Nathan Carden leaves open. They are Frank Ferreri (children's program and youth) and the Reverend Bill Yaeger. Council approved the employment of the aforementioned persons.

*Finance Committee*, Audrey Lewis, Chair - written report provided with further details. Audrey covered two main areas: research on financial reports over 4 years that will provide a historical picture for monitoring the budget throughout the year based on what happened in previous years. Secondly, a budget calendar has been set up for the remainder of the year. The written report includes the following: development, adoption and adoption by the Council of the 2008 budget, and further details on the development of the budgetary calendar.

*Trustees Committee*, Leon Couch, Chair – there was brief mention of details being undertaken by Dodie Andrews for sale of the parsonage.

*Girl/Boy/Cub Scouts*, Sandy Evans, absent, written report provided. Girl Scouts finished for the year with their banquet scheduled for June 1. Cub scouts also finished for the year, with Boy Scouts continuing as usual. Venture Crew 84, a new scouting group, will be starting this summer.

##### **Staff Reports**

*Pre-School Director, Amy Watson*: FUMPers had last day of school on May 21st with an End of the Year Celebration. Highlights of the school year provided in the written report included: senior volunteer joined one day per week for classroom help, preschool staff and ushers had a joint CPR/First Aid training, Book Fair was open during Wed. nite dinner and after church services, resumed Chapel time in the Sanctuary, 7 staff members attended an Early Childhood Conference, Pre-K class visited the SFCC Zoo and Planetarium, parents provided a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for the staff on May 7th.

*Director of Music, Robert Jackson*: Present, no report.

*Pastor of Children, Youth, Christian Education - Nathan Carden*: absent, written report provided. Three points are covered in the written report including: Christian Education committee is proposing, as part of a more comprehensive plan, the start of a new adult SS class entitled "The Practice of Prayer" to be led by Cynthia Hight and will meet from 9:45am - 10:45 am in the Christian Workers Chapel later in the summer. The second point covered was the vote from the youth council to begin a Venture Crew. A Venture Crew is comprised of scouts and members of the host church's youth group and allows youth group members to participate in scouting activities. Thirdly, beginning June 2nd Nathan Carden will be leading a communion service in the Christian Worker's Chapel from 3:30 - 4pm preceding the Helping Hands Clinic.

*Assistant Pastor - Carl Romey*: Report on needs of people of fixed income. Congregational Care

Committee needs to become active to determine those people who are in need. Or a table after each service that allows people to take the things that they are in need of. Carl to set up the Congregational Care Committee.

*Senior Pastor - Harold Henderson:* Fourteen members in the new members class currently. Three main areas to focus on tonight. The first is to allow the Council to engage in discussions of the ideas that have been presented in previous reports. Secondly, to begin the implementation phase of a few of the ideas.....flexibility to modify or change plans, or build on them. Thirdly, ensure that we allow the influx of new ideas.

New initiatives that are in progress and beginning to be implemented:

- Helping Hands Thursday night program for women - growing and healthy.

- Communion service for the homeless.

- Opening of the sanctuary for musical events.

- Approaches to reach baby boomers (Jim Knight) who are soon to be retiring.

- Discussions with Jim Cheek regarding an annual academic service to build bridges between the University and the Church

- Continuing discussion on decline of Sunday School - establishing an experimental class

- Communion on one Sunday evening a month

- Questioning class

## **Council Small Group Discussions**

The Council broke into four small groups to discuss some of the ideas that FUMC pastors had presented over the past few months. Using a matrix and discussion guide, the first ideas to emerge from about 30 minutes of discussion were approximately as follows:

### **Group 1**

Expand group of church volunteers by inviting more people to do such tasks as usher and read from the bible.

Seek more opportunities to mix members of the congregation who attend the 8:30 service and those who attend the 11:00 service, perhaps by having an "open house" discussion of new Sunday School ideas during the time Sunday School normally meets.

Perhaps offer some food during the in-between time to help those on fixed incomes; alternatively, have a food pantry in the church that people can take advantage of to stretch their fixed incomes.

### **Group 2**

Work on a program targeted to Downtown workers, starting with members of our congregation who work downtown and might have ideas of what would work. It should be carefully prepared and widely advertised.

Work on the Mission Statement for FUMC.

### **Group 3**

Provide more information to newcomers on different church offering, including Sunday School classes.

Explore need for Grief or Loss Class and consider content of such a class.

Work out ways to use the Workers Chapel for Downtown Workers

Explore ways to use Roper Park for more contact with neighbors.

Explore offerings for "young singles" group, for those in their 40's – 60's.

Improve the quality and reduce the quantity of the Wednesday night dinners.

### **Group 4**

Increase the offerings attractive to young and mid-life adults, both on Wednesday nights and through topical Sunday School classes.

Consider increasing church offerings in support and counseling through training and using peer counselors

for children, young adults and older folks. Consider offering more structured support and counseling for mid-life adults.

Increase social and recreational fellowship offerings for young seniors, since the church is not doing much of that now.

Expand those doing the ushering.

Have specialized web pages for various age or interest groups.

The Council will continue during its June meeting to explore these ideas in small group format, as it was thought to be useful.

Sr. Pastor Harold Henderson closed the meeting with a devotion.

**NEXT MEETING JUNE 24, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Frost

Lori Uhr,

Secretaries