

## First United Methodist Church

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

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

## **AGENDA CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 24, 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

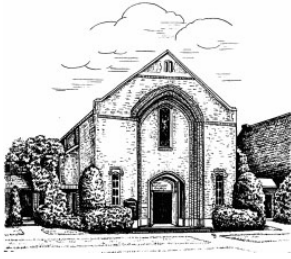
Old Business

1. Committee Highlights – essential items of interest at Council level
2. Report on Helping Hands Clinics – Randy Stacey
3. Discussion of future ministries – continuation of last month's discussion. 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

**Next Meeting: July 22, 2008**



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### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES June 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Mary Kilgour. Dan Greathouse gave the devotion. Minutes of the May meeting distributed by e-mail were approved without change.

#### **Staff Reports**

*Pre-School Director, Amy Watson:* Expressed appreciation to the chairs of Finance and Trustees for appointing a representative from each committee to serve on the Preschool Board. Plans are underway to hire an assistant teacher for the pre-K class. School is out for the summer and Amy is getting rested up for the next school year.

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

*Pastor of Children, Youth, Christian Education - Nathan Carden:*

- Vacation Bible School – 70-75 people each week are attending VBS: 56 adults, 10 youth and 12 children. Wednesday night suppers and programs end July 9 and will resume August 27 for a review of fall programs.
- Practice of Prayer Sunday School class – begins in August in the Christian Worker's Chapel, designed around learning and practicing praying together. It will be led in part by Cynthia Hight and will be open to participants joining for short periods of time as well as on an ongoing basis. The Christian education committee is also putting together another adult class designed to address participants' questions about the Christian faith.

Closing Thoughts – No immediate issues in ministries under Nathan's charge. He suggested the Council should think critically about our outreach to first-time visitors. Each week as staff reviews the Sunday attendance records, we usually find that we have had some first-time and even repeat visitors who are not being followed up with adequately. On behalf of himself and his family, Pastor Nathan expressed appreciation for his three years at FUMC. It was the consensus of the Council that he has made an enormous contribution to our church and will be greatly missed.

*Assistant Pastor – Carl Romey:* Pastor Carl reported our continued care and concern for Dorothy Mobry and Verna Ellis. Carl said that the response to sign up for the Congregational Care Committee was great and he will be having a meeting soon.

*Senior Pastor – Harold Henderson:* Pastor Harold broke all records by submitting a very brief report. He reported that the average Sunday worship attendance for the first half of 2007 was 238.8 people and the average for a comparable period in 2008 was 257.8, an increase of 15.3%.

We will be receiving 14-15 new adult members and one Confirmand into the congregation on the first Sunday in August.

#### **Old Business – Committee Highlights**

*Staff Parish Committee, Jim Nation, Chair* – reported that the Rev. Bill Yeager needs to delay commencement of his employment at FUMC while taking care of a health issue. We are keeping the position open in the expectation he will join us in the fall.

*Randy Stacey & Helping Hands Clinic:* Randy reported there are 60 volunteers working at the Monday clinic and patients have increased by 15%. The women's health initiative has screened 40 women over the past 5 plus months and referred 15 out for services. Some are not keeping the appointments, however, so improvements in procedures for follow up are needed. Nine women are attending the discussion groups on Thursday evenings. Discussions have pointed out the differing needs of homeless women from those who formerly were homeless. Randy has to report to the Blue Foundation on its grant in July and will provide copies to the July Council meeting.

Randy answered questions about how Helping Hands Clinic relates to other organizations working with the homeless and near-homeless. He said he was a member of the Hungry and Homeless Coalition and the clinic received referrals from groups such as Shands, Vista, and the jails.

### **Council Small Group Discussions**

The Council broke into four small groups to continue discussion started last month about new ministry initiatives the church might take on.

*Group 1: Focused on use of the Christian Worker's Chapel:*

Open it once a week for downtown lunch crowd for a) quiet time/meditation, and b) communion service. It should not be a Wednesday healing service, as that would conflict with Holy Trinity's service.

The availability of the chapel and its open hours should be widely advertised.

Volunteers should be recruited to cover the program.

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

*Group 2: Focused on Christian Education and the need to prioritize:*

Consider having Sunday School after the 11:00 am service. Consider what would be needed, such as food and specific offerings. Favorably commented on the changes in the Wednesday night programs.

Urged concentrating our attention since we're a small church. Members are aging and we need to reach out to that group.

*Group 3: Focused on a statement of FUMC's ethos (fundamental character or spirit of a culture):*

Traditional worship service

Quality of experience

Openness re doctrine

Inclusiveness

Downtown church in a growing residential area

Putting these attributes into practice by having a mid-week service

But need to define needs for new services

*Group 4: Focused on communications:*

Brochures, for distribution to neighbors (on doorknobs) and visitors.

Web page – expand use, involve youth under Leon's mentoring. (A youth web page is already under development)

Look at existing activities that are under-utilized

Consider lecture series on specific topics.

The Council's July meeting will attempt to prioritize the ideas that have been floated thus far.

Pastor Nathan closed the meeting with a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING: JULY 22, 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cec Morse and Mary Kilgour, Acting Secretaries