



## First United Methodist Church

419 NE First Street, Gainesville FL 32601  
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*Catch our vision to...present Jesus Christ positively.  
Make and encourage disciples, relieve suffering*

### COUNCIL MINUTES July 28, 2008

Mary Kilgour provided a welcome and mention of the Susan Moore service.

Minutes - Approved as submitted and distributed.

#### **Staff Reports**

*Pre-School Director, Amy Watson:* absent, summer break

*Director of Music, Robert Jackson (BJ):* present, written report submitted.

A thank you to those that contributed to the special music this summer while the Chancel Choir took a well-deserved break. June saw BJ attending and teaching at two summer music conferences including the Church Music Workshop (BJ was the advanced handbell clinician for the week), Music and Liturgical Arts Week serving as staff for the handbell section of the week. In August BJ will be attending the National Seminar sponsored by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers as a participant.

Chancel Choir returns to duty on August 13 while the Celebration Ringers led by Jenny Eckenrode will begin its rehearsals on August 14th. Children's Music program will begin the first Wednesday after Labor Day.

BJ provided a calendar of upcoming events:

Sept. 14th Organ Recital Series feature Dr. John Lowe in the FUMC sanctuary

October 12th Festival of Choirs to be held at FUMC

November 9th Ben Ehrlich will present selections from his Senior Recital at UF in the FUMC Sanctuary

December 14th the Chancel Choir, soloists and instrumentalists will present an Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival entitled "Savior of the Nations, Come"

*Director of Children, Youth, Christian Education - Frank Ferreri:* Sincere thanks to the FUMC family for the assistance and smooth transition. The transition has been bittersweet, losing a friend and brother but a blessing to spend the last month with him. With the help of Norma Courtney, I led 15 members of the FUMC Youth Group to Nashville to lead a VBS at the Madison Church of the Nazarene. This trip thrust me into the group and helped to cement my relationship with the Youth Group members in my new role. We felt that the VBS was a success and will hopefully allow their ministry to grow in the area of children and families. It reminded him of the importance of our ministry.

Changing position on Stewardship committee as the new staff contact.

With continued growth in this new position, I hope that I will be better able to detail my objectives and work to this council.

*Assistant Pastor - Carl Romey:* This last month has been filled with funerals and the Congregational Care Committee has played an integral part in these services. They are greatly appreciated.

*Senior Pastor - Harold Henderson:* present, written report read to the Council.

Pastor Henderson took the opportunity to reflect on some issues that have emerged in the life and ministry of FUMC. They included: mention of transition for the church with the departure of Rev. Nathan Carden and a welcome to Frank Ferreri as Director of Children, Youth and Education Ministries. Additionally the Susan Moore saga as a demonstration that reminds us that when we sow the seed, scattering it “widely and generously,” God gives the increase. Rev. Bill Yeager’s appointment is on hold until the end of the summer secondary to recovery from cardiac surgery.

Additionally, some dates to place on our calendars:

August 17th Service of Installation for Rev. Annette Pendergrass (New District Superintendent)

September 14th Stewardship Services (Rev. Annette Pendergrass preaching at both services)

September 28th Episcopal visit by Bishop Timothy Whitaker and Master’s Plan phase 1 Celebration.

### **Old Business**

Committee Highlights:

*Staff Parish Committee, Jim Nation, Chair* - present, commented on a brochure that Julie Henderson has designed for FUMC for the Legacy Society, Ruth Henderson provided the majority of the text. Possible 1,000 copies to be distributed and discussed at a Wednesday night function, date to be determined. The purpose is to encourage official, legal gifts to the Church as future nonbinding commitments.

*Helping Hands Clinic Report - Randy Stacey*, written report provided. Outlined three goals of the Helping Hands Clinic: Goal 1: To increase the primary care services to the homeless through increased recruitment of professional volunteers. Goal 2: Improve mental and physical wellbeing of homeless women enrolled in Helping Hands through a program of expanded primary care services and empowerment program. Goal 3: To develop a sustainability plan for the Helping Hands Clinic. Randy then expounded on the objectives underlying each goal and the progress towards those goals. Dr. Henderson commented that he thinks that we can anticipate a growing need for this ministry (HHC). The question is how are we going to accommodate that growth? It is early yet but it is a question that needs to be addressed.

*Discussion of future ministries and prioritization of last month’s discussion.*

Council winnowed and prioritized the list for subsequent action by the Council or others, based on the following criteria: Church needs, community needs, impact on problem, visibility, feasibility re: cost, time.

A tentative FUMC Mission Statement that was suggested after council discussion: First UMC is a faith-centered community that values traditional worship and Christian educational experiences in an open, inclusive environment. Attached are the prioritization results summarized by Mary Kilgour. This will be discussed further at the August Council meeting.

### **New Business:**

There was no new business.

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

**NEXT MEETING AUGUST 26, 2008**

**Attachment:**

Prioritization Results Please print out copy for August 26 meeting  
 NEW INITIATIVES: TENTATIVE PRIORITAZATION RESULTS

[priority number derived from total number of people voting for 3, 2, 1 or 0 stars]

Priority	Initiative	Next Steps	Action by Individual & Date
CRUCIAL▼			
57	Demographic Target: Helping Hands Clinic		
57	Communications: strengthen committee		
51	FUMC Ethos & Mission Statement: update		
46	Demographic Target: Downtown Workers, weekly Workers Chapel program		
45	Demographic Target: use Roper Park for neighbor/FUMC introductions		
42	Demographic Target: aging baby boomers: Jim Knight committee		
42	Christian Educ/Worship/Fell'shp: Grief & loss class		
42	CEWF: Questioning Class		
41	Adult Literacy Program		
39	CEWF: weekly Communion on Sunday		
36	CEWF: class/fellowship after 11 AM service		
28	CEWF: Wed. night topical lecture series aimed at specific groups		
18	CEWF: fellowship between 8:30 & 11 AM services		
9	CEWF: improve Wed. night menus		

0	Increase activities aimed at mid-life adults		
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0	Increase support for senior seniors		
0	Expand access of public to FUMC		
0	Volunteerism: expand: Bible readers, visitor follow-up, committee strengthening, usher/greeter training		
LOW ▲			