



First United Methodist Church

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES August 26, 2008

Chair, Mary Kilgour, called the meeting to order and asked Lay Leader, Dan Greathouse, to open with a prayer.

Minutes - Approved as submitted and distributed.

Staff Reports

Pre-School Director, Amy Watson: present, asks for prayers for a successful beginning of this new school year at FUMPers with two new staff members. Jill Wagstaff will be the Lead teacher and Cindy Wright will be the Assistant teacher in our four-year-old class. Both of these ladies are also active members of FUMC. Four classes: with three full and one with 3 spots still open. Cecile Morse mentioned how thankful we all are for Amy's work with FUMPers.

Director of Music, Robert Jackson (BJ): present, written report submitted. The Chancel Choir began rehearsals on Wed., August 13. We added four new members... Ricki Kirk, Tim Leslie, Don and Mary Elizabeth Bain, with an additional few extras planning to join the choir for the Christmas program. The Celebration Ringers, under the direction of Jenny Eckenrode, began rehearsals on Thursday, August 14, 6:30pm. We added two new members, Stephen and Desiree Williams, to replace the loss of the three youth ringers. The Instrumental Ensemble played frequently during the summer and continues its rehearsal meeting time of Wednesdays at 6:30pm. As always, we stand ready to welcome any new members into our fold who wish to serve the congregation of FUMC through music. The Children's Music program will begin Wednesday, September 3, after Labor Day, with the following updated schedule: 4:30-5:00pm Younger elementary. This age group will concentrate on rudimentary musical skills by using musical games, play and crafts. 5:00-5:30pm Older elementary. This group will concentrate on learning musical skills by learning songs to sing in church worship. I am excited to report that Jenny Eckenrode has graciously accepted my invitation to help with this program. Jenny will bring a wealth of education and skills to assist in this area.

Looking ahead on the calendar, the following musical events are upcoming:

Sunday, September 14th- The Organ Recital Series will feature Dr. John Lowe in a recital program at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary. Dr. Lowe is the Organist/Choirmaster at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Gainesville. A catered luncheon, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee in celebration of Consecration Sunday, will be provided following the 10:55 service. The luncheon will conclude in time to attend the recital.

Sunday, September 21st- Ben Ehrlich will present his Senior Recital the Memorial Auditorium on UF Campus at 2:30pm.

Sunday, October 12th- Festival of Choirs-5:00pm The Chancel Choir will host and participate in the 22nd Annual Gainesville Festival of Choirs.

Sunday, November 9th- Ben Ehrlich will present selections from his Senior Recital at UF in the Sanctuary at 2:00pm in the final organ concert of the 2008.

Sunday, December 14th- "Savior of The Nations, Come," the Chancel Choir, soloists and instrumentalists will be presenting an Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival in celebration of the coming Christ child.

New for 2009:

Sunday, February 15th- Dr. Lee Couch (son of Dr. Leon and Margaret Couch) will present an organ recital 2:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, May 24th - Aldersgate Sunday Hymn Festival celebrating the hymns of Charles and John Wesley.

Sunday, August 30th - Mr. Jim Hendricks, Professor of Piano, Chicago State University, will be part of the morning worship services and then present a full piano recital program either late April or early may 2009.

The congregation is encouraged to support these events, and the persons who spend many hours in rehearsal to prepare them.

Director of Children, Youth, Christian Education - Frank Ferreri: present, written report submitted. My time on the job thus far has led me to see the importance of Nathan's unofficial mission statement that when it comes to our children, youth, and education ministries, our task is to make Disciples of Christ through our worship and our relationships. I continue to pray that all my efforts are a step in that direction. On August 17, along with a number of adults and I, some 15 members of our youth group attended the installment service and welcome reception for new D.S. Annette Pendergrass.

The grounds around the pre-school playground or the scout hut, you'll notice that they look revamped and re-landscaped. Thanks to Sean Eccles and Alden Sharp, who took on those jobs as their Eagle Scout leadership projects. I had the privilege of attending the Boy Scout meeting last night and I'm hoping to see what the Girl Scouts are up to soon, as well. Back in June, we chartered our youth group as Venture Crew with the Scouts, which means FUMC is now home to the full family of Scouting programs.

The Wednesday night program is set to go. There will be a preview of the classes tomorrow night during the UMM supper. We could still use a few more volunteers to help out with the children's program. Joan Thompson is on board, but we could use a few more workers to help lighten her load.

Going forward, I will be trying to develop Christian education programs that do more to involve more of the church family (while making sure the current programs stay healthy). Though not part of my job, officially, one of the most rewarding aspects of it has been the communion chapel service we have on Mondays in advance of the Helping Hands clinic. I am still thinking of ways that we can grow our children's ministries and our Sunday school attendance for all ages. As staff contact to that committee, I would like to encourage everyone to be in worship on September 14 and to attend our catered lunch that afternoon.

Dr. Henderson commented how thankful we are to have Frank on staff.

Assistant Pastor - Carl Romey: written report. The number of people in the hospitals has been somewhat quiet this past month. There have been several in and out that have been seen by staff and lay members. Some are now recovering at home or in nursing/rehab care. Molly Morrison was at AGH for three weeks and is now at Palm Garden. Yesterday we lost a wonderful member of our congregation, Alice Morgan, after lengthy home care.

Joe Hight has offered to use his gifts in assisting with hospital calling.

Outreach/inreach for the senior adults/retirees of the church is moving forward with some

events to be announced soon. There will be a once-a month noon luncheon. There will be a shared potluck meal with the entrée provided by the Congregational Care Committee. So we will have Marvelous Mondays, Terrific Tuesdays, or Fantastic Friday's if Thrilling Thursdays does not work out.

I appreciate everyone's help as we work together to expand our ministries. The Brazilian Praise group will start meeting again on UF campus as soon as everyone gets settled in.

Senior Pastor - Harold Henderson: present, read written report. It is important to note that we set out deliberately to change the focus of our Church Council meetings from administrative detail to a ministry orientation and, from my perspective, that transition is proceeding effectively. I think we will see the benefits of the change as time goes by and we move into an action phase on some of our ideas and priorities(given that we can't do everything at once).

1. It is encouraging to report that we have begun to make significant forward progress on one of the priorities we have identified - the formation of an effective communications task force.

Courtney Dell, one of our Young Adults, has agreed to serve as coordinator for the group, which will hold its first meeting at 6:30pm on Thursday, September 4. Frank Ferreri will serve as staff to the group. The group comprises people who have expertise and/or are already involved in various aspects of the communications enterprise. They are: Courtney Dell, Lynda Knight, Jim Knight, Leon Couch, John Bevis, Ruth Henderson, Jack Church, Pam Church, Lori Uhr, Cynthia Hight, Frank Ferreri.

2. As members will be aware, we had offered a part-time position to Rev. Bill Yeager as the third minister on our staff. He had accepted and then health issues intervened and the SPR Committee agreed to hold the position open until Labor Day weekend. I am scheduled to meet with Bill on Thursday to discuss the situation. If he feels unable to proceed with the appointment, we will explore other options immediately.

3. Members will be interested to know that Rev. Annette Pendergrass, our newly appointed District Superintendent, has already asked me what my thinking is about continuing to serve as Senior Pastor beyond June 2009 (the extent of my present appointment). I informed her that there would be no initiative on my part to move on, that I had always thought my appointment to First Church would require at least a three to five year commitment on my part to begin to accomplish what needed to be accomplished here, and that I would welcome the opportunity to continue. She said that she was glad to hear that, and that Bishop Whitaker would be, too. I pass that on by way of information. It will be a matter for the SPR Committee to process in due course.

4. We are experiencing extreme difficulty finding hotel accommodation for Bishop Whitaker on Saturday night, September 27, because of the home game that day. If anyone has any special influence in this area, please let us know.

Old Business

Committee Highlights:

Treasurer's Report, Sara Daly, absent, written report provided. So far pledges have been kept up-to-date even though many of us have been on vacation or out of town.

Trustees Committee, Leon Couch, Chair - present, On April 12, 2008, a FUMC Church Conference passed a motion to sell the parsonage for an amount of no less than \$425,000. Furthermore, the sale proceeds were to be invested in an interest bearing account. The interest from this account is to be used to help in providing the housing allowance for the senior minister when needed. Over the past several months the trustees have worked diligently to find a buyer for the parsonage. Dodie Andrews, chair of the trustee parsonage sales subcommittee, has shown the parsonage to about 20 prospective buyers. Joan Van Winkle, trustee, has also helped with this.

On August 12 the parsonage was sold for a purchase price of \$447,000. Linda Knight also negotiated the sale of all the parsonage furniture to the buyer for \$4,750. The net proceeds from the sale of the parsonage plus the furniture were \$432,787.50 (after the closing costs for selling the parsonage were subtracted). This amount has been invested to help provide a housing allowance for the senior minister. During the 4-point inspection (roof, HVAC, electrical and plumbing), a leak was found in the roof. Otherwise the parsonage was in excellent shape. The trustees are still working on getting the roof leak repaired. The cost of this repair will be paid for from the proceeds of the parsonage sale.

A big thank you to all the trustees involved in this project and, in particular, to Parker Lawrence who was our lawyer representing FUMC at the closing, Dodie Andrews, Linda Knight and Joan Van Winkle.

Helping Hands Clinic Report - Randy Stacey. Thanks to the Church Council for support in the rankings.

For July: 97 clinic visits, 69 different clients, 15 new clients. Women's Program- currently every other week, there may be an opportunity to expand to a weekly format. Newest service provider includes a hypnotist. There is an ongoing need for personal care products, not just a one time donation but a constant source.

Currently we are beginning to plan for the Annual Christmas Dinner and Service on December 14th. Will call the FUMC Homeless Support Committee to meet.

Continuation of Ministry Prioritization Discussion

Mary Kilgour distributed two papers that showed the results of previous months' discussions of priorities for new ministries of interest to the church. Working from the chart that included space for indicating next steps, the priorities were adjusted slightly and notation was made of what would or should happen in the next month. This chart is attached to these minutes and incorporated in them. At the September meeting we will hear reports from responsible committees and individuals on the progress made toward each initiative. It should be noted that several initiatives are already underway under the leadership of standing committees.

The attached chart should be reviewed carefully for corrections and actions as indicated by appropriate Council members and/or committee members and staff.

New Business: none

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

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2008.

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			
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57	Demographic Target: Helping Hands Clinic	Report @ next mtg.	Cynthia Stacey, 9/23/08
57	Communications: strengthen task force	New committee members mtg.	9/4/08. Report to Council 9/23/08
51	FUMC Ethos & Mission Statement: update	Research past efforts, discuss	Ole, Dan, JoAnn, 9/23/08
46	Demographic Target: Downtown Workers, weekly Workers Chapel program	TBD. HH to discuss with Audrey Lewis, et.al.	HH, 9/23/08
45	Demographic Target: use Roper Park for neighbor/FUMC introductions	Normal program-ing for now: Hallo-ween. Trustees to discuss further.	Leon Couch, 9/23/08
42	Demographic Target: aging baby boomers: Jim Knight committee	TBD	9/23/08
42	Christian Educ/Worship/Fell'shp: Grief & loss class	Fall semester, Wed. nite class	Carl Romey
42	CEWF: Questioning Class	Refer to CE committee	NAN
41	Adult Literacy Program	Requires research. Defer for now	NAN?
39	CEWF: weekly Communion on Sunday	Worship Comm-ittee discuss	9/23/08
36	CEWF: class/fellowship after 11 AM service	TBD: handle as Special occasions	9/23/08
28	CEWF: Wed. night topical lecture series aimed at specific groups	Refer to CE Committee	9/23/08
18* higher priority	CEWF: fellowship between 8:30 & 11 AM services	TBD	9/23/08
9	CEWF: improve Wed. night menus	Done	NAN
0	Increase activities aimed at mid-life adults		NAN?
0	Increase support for senior seniors	Congregational Care Committee	NAN?
0	Expand access of public to FUMC		NAN?
0 LOW ↑	Volunteerism: expand	Being done?	NAN?