



## First United Methodist Church

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

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

### COUNCIL MINUTES    September 23, 2008

Mary Kilgour, chair, welcomed the Council and asked Frank Ferrari to open with a prayer.

Minutes - Approved as submitted and distributed.

#### ***Staff Reports***

**Pre-School Director, Amy Watson:** absent, Frank Ferrari read written report. The preschool is off to a great start!

Upcoming events:

Annual Open House this Thursday-September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. During Open House, we show off the school, describe the curriculum to the parents and enjoy a potluck dinner together.

All welcome to come and find out more about FUMPers.

Scholastic Book Fair the week of October 6-12: Please consider coming by the fair and purchasing materials for the children in your life. The Book Fair will open before and after preschool classes the whole week, before and after the Wed. Nite Dinner/Bible Study time on the 8<sup>th</sup> plus after church services on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have a range of items for sale: reading materials for preschool and elementary ages, plus musical CD's, puzzles, stuffed animals and t-shirts. Come on by and get a head start on your Christmas shopping! Your support of the book fair benefits FUMPers by generating funds that we exchange for books for our preschool library.

**Director of Music, Robert Jackson (BJ):** absent, Pastor Henderson read written report. All choirs have started rehearsals again for the new year (2008-2009). All choirs continue to show an increase in membership. The big event for October is the Festival of Choirs which will be held over the weekend of October 10-12. The festival includes choirs from First UMC, Trinity UMC, First Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Episcopal, Grace Presbyterian and St. Augustine Catholic church and should represent approximately 100+ singers. The festival is under the direction of Dr. Andre' Thomas, Director of Choral Activities at Florida State University. Dr. Harold Henderson will be the presiding clergy.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>- Festival of Choirs-5:00pm The Chancel Choir will host and participate in the 23rd Annual Gainesville Festival of Choirs.

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>- 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 14<sup>th</sup>- "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 January 18<sup>th</sup>- Keyboard Excursions presented by Jane Holstein and Joel Raney. This

organ/piano duo will play for both services and then present an exciting organ/piano duet concert that afternoon at 2:00pm.

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

May 22, 2009- Kama Rasmussen will present a piano recital at 2:00pm in the sanctuary.

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

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> - 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. Things are going well in the areas of children, youth, and education. Monday evening I attended the Girl Scouts Investiture and Re-dedication ceremony. Karen Harris leads a large group of Scouts and volunteers, and I think there is potential for the church to make a connection with a number of people who are involved in the Girl Scouts, and I will be working with her to make sure that I have a good and meaningful contact with that group.

The Communications Task Force got things started very well earlier this month. We were to meet again before this Council meeting tonight, but the Coordinator, Courtney Dell, had a funeral to attend. However, at the first meeting, the Task Force put together a number of long and short term goals. The short term goals include doing some research about who the church's "target" audience is, designing a church logo, implementing a "branding" system (whereby all church communications would have a consistent appearance, revamping the Messenger, and continuing to grow the Website as a meaningful tool. Two immediate items the Task Force will be addressing are (1) putting together a budget for 2009 and (2) getting a sign for the back of the church.

From the time Nathan left until last week, the Young Adult Sunday school class had been combined with Jim Knight's class. We went back to a split format on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, but it appears that it is probably in the best interests of both groups to combine the two.

Looking to have better involvement of the young singles in mind as this group is underrepresented in our church and woefully underrepresented in Sunday school.

The youth group had a good outing to Ben Ehrlich's senior recital on Sunday. The large showing from our church family in support of Ben was a positive thing for them to see and experience.

**Assistant Pastor - Carl Romey:** present, oral report. Thursday Group Dinner kick-off lunch/potluck with entrée provided. This lunch will be a combination of Lunch Bunch and other members/friends. Planning approximately 10 during the year to be held on the third Thursday of each month. Out of this first activity, we are hoping to grow activities for church members and community.

**Senior Pastor - Harold Henderson:** present, read written report. The average Sunday worship attendance so far this year has been 249, as against 239 for the same period last year. Although this is not the only measure of a church's growth it is encouraging when we see Sunday worship attendance rising, especially when we all experience other expressions of spiritual growth and vitality among us.

One encouraging aspect of the church's life is the continued growth of the choir, with three new members added only last week. It was encouraging to see such a large representation of our congregation at Ben Ehrlich's Senior Recital at the UF Auditorium last Sunday afternoon. In similar vein was the participation of the Bell Choir in the wedding last Saturday of Sarah Corliss and Corey Hamilton.

Some changes to report, most notable of which is the return to our staff of Charlene Haufler as Administrative Assistant. Joyce Martel was offered a very attractive opportunity to return to the School Board, at the very time Charlene was planning to reenter the workforce. We are thankful to God for how

this has worked out so well for Joyce, for Charlene and the church. The other change is that the Staff Parish Relations committee has decided to hold open for the remainder of this calendar year the pastoral appointment offered to Rev. Bill Yeager, then to proceed with the appointment at that stage or pursue other alternatives.

We all greatly appreciated the visit on September 14 of our new District Superintendent, Rev. Annette Pendergrass, whose preaching at both services provided excellent focus for our Stewardship Sunday observance. We are delighted that Bishop Timothy Whitaker has accepted our invitation to pay a return visit next Sunday, Sept. 28, when he will preach at both services and lead the Celebration of Renewal at the 10:55am service. There is no way that Bishop Whitaker could preach in all Florida Conference churches once in five years, so we are privileged that he is coming among us two years in a row.

Monday, October 27, is an important date - our annual Charge Conference. It will be a small Cluster Conference held at 6:30pm at Mount Pleasant Methodist Church on NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. It is important that we be well represented as a congregation.

### ***Old Business***

Committee Highlights:

**Trustees Committee, Leon Couch, Chair** - present, The Trustees, as agents of FUMC, received a gift from the Laura Carmichael estate. It was decided that part of this gift will be used to pay off the Master's Plan loan, thereby saving \$50,000 in interest. Continued hope for contributions to the Master's Plan fund to replenish the Laura Carmichael gift.

**Helping Hands Clinic Report - Cynthia Stacey** present, oral report, Mondays have been very busy.

Women's night-solid 5 regulars: Change to every week from every other week. Meal provided.

Haircuts to begin soon. Extra food from Consecration Sunday was served on Monday HHC.

Carl to open his office for sharing/prayer when he is able.

### ***Discussion of Future Ministries***

The Council continued its discussion of priorities for future ministries, using the chart prepared by Mary Kilgour from the previous months' discussions. The results of tonight's conclusions can be found in the revised chart attached to these minutes. In short, progress has been made on several items and it was agreed to shorten the list to those where action is most needed and which were given highest priority.

The revised chart attached will be the basis for discussion at our October meeting.

***New Business:*** No new business.

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

**NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 28 , 2008.**

Prepared by Lori Uhr & Shirley Frost

Reviewed by Mary Kilgour

**NEW INITIATIVES: PRIORITAZATION RESULTS & ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE**

<b>Priority CRUCIAL ↓</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Action by Individual &amp; Date</b>
57	Demographic Target: Helping Hands Clinic: strengthen church support	FUMC Committee to meet again	10/28/08
57	Communications: strengthen task force. TF established, short-term goals set; need target audience definition and updated mission statement.	Next meeting Sept. 30	Report to Council 10/28/08
51	FUMC Ethos & Mission Statement: update	Meet to discuss material Ole sent out	Ole, Dan, JoAnn, 10/28/08
46	Demographic Target: Downtown Workers, weekly Workers Chapel program: Start with prayer service. On hold until we do homework to set up.	Need to lay ground work, select day of week, get volunteers, sign out front, advertise	HH, Audrey Lewis, et.al.: 10/28/08
45	Demographic Target: use Roper Park for neighbor/FUMC introductions	Normal programs for now: Halloween. Audrey to inquire re permits required.	Audrey 10/28/08
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. Underway. NAN
42	CEWF: Questioning Class	Refer to CE com-mittee	NAN
41	Adult Literacy Program	Requires research. Defer for now	NAN. Defer.
39	CEWF: weekly Communion on Sunday	Worship Committee discuss	10/28/08
36/18	CEWF: class/fellowship between services and after 11 AM service	Congregational Care Committee to discuss/handle as special occasions	10/28/08
28	CEWF: Wed. night topical lecture series aimed at specific groups	Refer to CE Com-Mittee	9/23/08
9	CEWF: improve Wed. night menus	Being done	Update 10/28/08