



1st United Methodist Church

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2009

ATTENDING: Jim Bishop, Jim Nation, Cleo Abbott, Elizabeth Shaw, Bill Yeager, Dr. Harold Henderson, Randy Stacey, Lawrence Shaw, Leon Couch, Kay Greathouse, Dan Greathouse, Frank Ferrerri, Mary Kilgour, Muffet Emanuel, Joe Willcox

Mary Kilgour presiding – Opening prayer by Leon Couch

Minutes of September 22, 2009 meeting approved as circulated

NEW BUSINESS (Including actions required for Charge Conference on October 28)

1. As Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, Dr. Henderson presented for approval the latest (Edit 10-26-09) 2010 Proposed Church Council Voting Members (copy attached) for approval. On call for a vote by the Council Chair the proposal was approved unanimously.
2. Dr. Henderson presented for approval the recommendation of University United Methodist Church that David Averill proceed as a candidate for the ministry in the United Methodist Church. On call for a vote by the Chair approval was granted unanimously.
3. With approval of the Chair, Randy Stacey moved for a vote of approval and appreciation for Dr. Henderson and the entire ministerial staff for their ministry among us. Vote in favor was unanimous.

STAFF REPORTS

1. *Preschool Director – Amy Watson – No report*
2. *Helping Hands Clinic – Randy Stacey – Verbal report*
3. *Director of Music – Robert Jackson – Written report attached*
4. *Children, Youth and Young Adults – Frank Ferreri*
5. *Assistant Pastor – Carl Romey – On vacation*
6. *Assistant Pastor – Bill Yeager – Written report attached*
7. *Senior Pastor – Dr. Harold Henderson – Written report attached*

OLD BUSINESS – Committee Highlights

1. *Staff/Parish Relations Committee - Jim Nation, as Chair,* reported that both assistant pastors Carl Romey and Bill Yeager have requested that a portion of their respective salaries be designated as Housing Allowance. Their requests having been approved by the SPPR Committee, Jim moved approval by the Church Council. With second by Cleo Abbott the motion passed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with prayer by Bill Yeager.

Next meeting November 24, 2009.

Note- Minutes and a full set of written reports will be available in the church office for approximately 30 days. They are also available on the church website courtesy of Web Master Leon Couch.

Joe Willcox, Secretary

Frank Ferreri - Report to FUMC Church Council -- 27 OCT 2009

I will attempt to keep this report brief, but I did want to share a few important things that are going on in my areas.

First, I encourage everyone to come out Friday evening for our annual Fall Festival. Joanie Thompson and Shirley Thompson have done a wonderful job of bringing things together and we have great church representation volunteering inside and outside that night. That's important because I will be away at class in Orlando so I'm depending on the volunteers to pull it off. As always, I know they will put great effort into it, and I'm quite pleased to report that Karen Harris has recruited a number of Girl Scouts to work the event. That is a tremendous blessing for which I'm thankful. We draw a large number of families from the preschool and the Duckpond neighborhood, so it would be wonderful if we had a large turnout from the FUMC family on hand to show them warmth, grace, and hospitality. We have a well-earned reputation for being a friendly church and these kinds of events give us an opportunity to polish it.

Also this weekend, on Saturday, the Youth will be trick-or-treating for UNICEF and gathering loose change from the neighborhoods around the church to donate to the United Nations' relief efforts for impoverished children around the globe. Afterward, we are going bowling at one of the alleys in town.

There is one project that I'd like to bring to the Council's attention in an effort to garner ideas and other helpful assistance. I'd like to explore the possibility of starting a scholarship fund here at the church for students in our congregation. This academic year marks the first time since 2006 that we've had youth in our congregation who will be graduating from high school (Cortney Powers, Ryan Jones, and Alden Sharp are graduating this year. Evan Jones was our last graduate.). But, in the years to come, we will have multiple graduates on an annual basis. Often times, I hear the youth say something along the lines of, "I'd like to go to X, but I'll probably go to Y because of the cost of tuition." Because this congregation believes firmly in education and because we see the use of our intellect as a key component of discipleship, I believe God has uniquely called us to support students whenever we can. Therefore, I believe we have the will and the tools to put in place a permanent and growing fund that would enable our students to pursue the education to which God leads them without having to limit their options because of financial reasons. I realize this a bit ambitious, but if we're going to be especially eager about something, why not this? If anyone would like to assist with this endeavor in anyway, please get in touch with me. I'm open to any ideas because I have a really deep desire to see this happen in a way that we can be proud of, that meaningfully helps our students, and glorifies God.

Lastly, I want to praise two new additions to our young adult group here at FUMC, both of whom are freshmen in college and could potentially give us several years of great service. The first is Meredith Bowen, an elementary education major at Santa Fe College. Meredith is from Virginia and volunteered to teach in our children's Sunday school program after her first visit to FUMC. The other teachers have sung her praises heartily, and I am thankful that the Lord led her to us. And I'm equally thankful that the Lord led Rachael Jordan to us. Rachael is an aeronautical engineering student at UF who has been singing in the choir and playing bells. It is an understatement to say that she is gifted. She is a bright, motivated, deep thinker with a warm personality. I have thoroughly enjoyed my discussions with her. I hope that you will have the opportunity to let both Meredith and Rachael know how glad we are to have them with us.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Ferreri -- Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults

REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
27 OCTOBER 2009
ASSISTANT PASTOR – WILLIAM H. YEAGER

Each month brings new understandings of this portion of the Body of Christ called First United Methodist Church of Gainesville, Florida. I am deeply impressed with the quantity and quality of dedication that is obviously felt here within these walls, and of the sense of mission both locally and globally.

Within my own areas of responsibility, I want to thank the leaders of the Fall Wednesday Evening Studies, the Care Partner teams that extend The Lord's Table to those who are unable to attend worship, and to all of our members whose caring for one another becomes known to me as I visit in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement communities, and residences. Please do not take this for granted. It is not so in all churches.

The Fall Classes are going well. The only complaint that I have received is that the time for discussion is too short. This means that the leaders are providing an atmosphere of comfort and openness to the participants, enabling the possibilities for learning and growth.

We presently have fourteen volunteers working within the Care Partners program, visiting forty-five people on a monthly basis. The Lord's Table is being experienced beyond the walls of the sanctuary, and new relationships are beginning.

On November 8 there will be sixteen people transferring from University UMC to First Church. I have known most of them for almost twenty years. Some of you have known them even longer through district events and community areas of service. I anticipate the warm welcome that they will receive and foresee a smooth transition during a difficult time. My personal thanks begin with Dr. Henderson and extend to the whole congregation. I plan to continue offering a Bible Study for our members at The Village and look forward to offering them transportation on Sunday mornings thanks to the work of Frank Ferreri and the drivers who are even now preparing to provide this much needed service.

As we approach Thanksgiving I want to give thanks for the worshipping community of First UMC, and I eagerly anticipate the Advent Season and a new church year! Please especially remember Betty Jewett and her family as they make difficult decisions and plan for imminent changes, and for the Hooper family as they celebrate the life and resurrection of Betty Hooper tomorrow (Oct.29) morning through music in our sanctuary.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Yeager

Report to Church Council – October 27, 2009.

This report will necessarily be brief because my report writing this week has been focused on tomorrow night's Charge Conference. I thought it might be an opportunity to share some good news and bad news.

We have lots of good news and the particular item I want to share is in relation the reception into the membership of First Church on November 8 of 16 members by transfer from University Church. Apart from one or two who are unable to do so, these are folks who have been attending our services in recent times, have been warmly received, and will bring their own giftedness to our life as a congregation. The closure of University Church has been a traumatic experience for all involved and we have reason to be thankful that Bill Yeager has been on hand to provide good pastoral care and group Bible study leadership, without in any way being coercive. These folks have decided for themselves to join First Church among other options open to them, and we are delighted to be able to welcome them.

Not far behind them will be five members of Christ Mission in East Gainesville (now closed) who also want to transfer their membership here, after exploring other options.

In view of these developments, members of both churches who have passed away in the last 12 months will be included among those we commemorate in our All Saints' observance this coming Sunday.

There are two bad news areas to which I want to draw attention on the grounds that, although we are doing well overall, we can always do better and we need to lift our game in these two areas. They are Mission and Outreach, and Christian Education.

Mission and Outreach has outstanding new leadership in the person of Peggy Halsey. With years of mission experience on the staff of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, Peggy is uniquely positioned to lead our congregation in a deeper and broader understanding of what it means for a local congregation to be on mission, and to undertake exciting new initiatives in outreach. There is a small group of deeply committed people working with Peggy but we need more who will offer to do so. Why not sign up? It will probably change your life!

Christian Education, an area vital to any church that is serious about Christian discipleship (since discipleship means "learning") is without lay leadership at present and has very few active committee members. Again we need volunteers – including one as Chair. In a church like ours, with much higher than average educational levels, there have to be many members who could bring valuable skills and experience to the table. Continuing education is one of the very fundamental and top priority ministries of our church, and we have a good program, but we need to do more and better.

Harold Henderson,
Senior Pastor.