



First United Methodist Church

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

As members, we promise to be loyal to the Church and uphold it with our presence, our prayers, our gifts, our witness and our service.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA April 27, 2010

Welcome by Dan Greathouse, Acting Chair

Devotion

Minutes: approval of March 27, 2010 Minutes distributed by e-mail April 25, 2010

Staff Reports – *Please make special note of progress in the new priority ministries under your supervision, if any*

1. Pre-School Director – Amy Watson (submitted early, to be read by chair)
2. Report on Helping Hands Clinics – Randy Stacey
3. Robert Jackson – Director of Music
4. Rachel Jordan – Youth Leader
5. Carl Romey – Assistant Pastor
6. Bill Yeager – Assistant Pastor
7. Harold Henderson – Senior Pastor

Old Business

1. Committee Highlights – *Please be sure to cover progress in the new priority ministries under the charge of your committee as well as key ongoing and future happenings.*
 - a. Staff Parrish – Tim Leslie
 - b. Finance – Jeff Cheek
 - c. Other Committees
2. Discussion of future priority ministries not covered by committee or staff reports
3. Discussion of fundraising opportunities, continued from previous meetings
 - a. Periodic social events with fundraising element, example of Finance Committee initiative
 - b. Other approaches
 - c. Coordination with or piggybacking on existing FUMC fundraising

New Business Open to floor.

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: May 25, 2010

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
419 NE First Street, Gainesville, FL 32601

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
April 27,2010

ATTENDING: Dan Greathouse, Kay Greathouse, Muffet Emmanuel, Trisha Eccles, Barbara Kirby, Rachael Jordan, Tim Leslie, Dr. Harold Henderson, Leon Couch, Jim Nation, Liz Shaw, Lawrence Shaw, Jim Emerson, JoAnna Emerson, Jeff Cheek, Joe Willcox

Dan Greathouse presiding as Acting Chair in absence of Chair Mary Kilgour

Opening devotion by Dan Greathouse

Minutes of March 27 meeting approved as circulated

STAFF REPORTS

1. Preschool Director – Amy Watson – Written report attached
2. Director of Music – Robert Jackson – Written report attached
3. Director of Youth Ministries – Rachael Jordan – Written report attached
4. Senior Pastor – Dr. Harold Henderson – Written report attached

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Staff Parish – Tim Leslie – Tim presented the latest revision of “Voice It” as attached and it was adopted by consensus. Tim reported adoption of 2 changes in titles of positions, Director of Youth Ministries and Director of Children Ministries, and that Jill Wagstaff has made application for Director of Children Ministries. He also reported that Barbara Jime’nez has applied for the organist position.
2. Finance – Jeff Cheek - Jeff presented and covered the attached current Balance Sheet and Analysis of Revenues & Expenses.
3. Trustees – Leon Couch reviewed current projects
4. Methodist Men – Larry Shaw reported on future plans
5. Nominations – Dr. Henderson presented the attached report submitting

nominations of Barbara Kirby and Tyson Tate to vacancies on the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Eric Burcham as Chair of the Stewardship Committee. On motion by Muffet Emanuel, 2nd by Kay Greathouse, the nominations were approved.

Closing prayer, meeting adjourned, next meeting 7:00 PM May 25, 2010

Note: These minutes and copies of all 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

First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers) Report -presented to the Church Council on April 27, 2010

I apologize for not being at the Council meeting in person to share my appreciation for my church family.

FUMPers had an extremely successful SAF fundraiser. I appreciate the members of the church family who baked goods for us to sell and for those who made purchases. Prior to the Festival, I put out a church wide request for additional baked goods as we have less children enrolled this year which gave us less baked goods to sell. My church family really came through following this request. I was overwhelmed by the support so freely given. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We celebrated Earth Day by sending home with each child a reusable grocery bag filled with information, “green” activities and literature. The bags were donated by our neighboring Publix; FUMPers provided the included information. We spent the week discussing with our preschool children the importance of becoming lifelong stewards of the earth God entrusted to us.

We will be honoring our Mothers in a couple of weeks with a special Mother’s Day Tea in both our Hopping Frogs class and in the Big Dogs class. We hope to show these special persons how much they mean to us by serving them a lite snack and presenting a short talent show.

May 26, 2010 will be our last day of preschool for this current year. Please join us at our End of the Year Graduation & Program in the Fellowship Hall at 11am. Our FUMPers will present a program of songs, we will have a potluck lunch together while viewing a slide show celebrating the great year we have had together. We would love to have members of our church family join us.

Thank you for your support of the children’s ministry of FUMC,
Amy C. Watson
Director, First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers)
FUMPers@FUMCgmv.org
352-373-0108

What a Magnificent Response!

Not surprisingly, this report will be about the wonderfully generous response in the offerings on Sunday, April 25. I am typing this just the day after Cristle's team of volunteers counted the offerings and reported that the total was \$29,410.04! This amount comes well within \$1,000 of overtaking the entire shortfall we had accumulated since the beginning of the year.

To God be the glory. Great things he has done. As is often the case, it's all the more exciting because he has done so through mere mortals like us. I think it is important to identify and place on record what the learnings are from this wonderful experience. Here are just a few that have occurred to me:

- + The people need to know even, and perhaps especially, when the news is bad. When they know, they will try to do something about it. Not that we don't publish the financial information in the weekly bulletin and in Sarah Daly's page in the newsletter, but we need to do more and we will.

- + Pray about financial needs and leave room for God's Spirit to work. I prayed a good deal once I received our treasurer, Sarah Daly's report on the serious cash flow problem we would face in April. My prayers were simply that God would show us his way forward. I had not had an opportunity to speak to Pastor Carl about the financial situation (someone else did casually), but he was inspired at 2:00 o'clock on Sunday morning to change his sermon and preach the powerful message that got everyone's attention on Sunday, April 18. I saw that as part of God's answer to my prayer (I know how it is with preachers getting inspiration in the middle of Saturday night/Sunday morning). I also see Sunday's generous response as part of God's answer.

- + For the last three/four years, our church has been in a steady growth mode, following 25 years of decline and we need to be hesitant to move too quickly to do anything that would place the continuation of this growth at risk, and certainly not without laying out the possibilities in ways that register with the congregation.

- + As a church, we are called to model the faith we preach and teach, and we are called to faithfulness to the God we worship.

I sometimes wonder whether anyone is listening when I keep saying that neither decline nor growth is inevitable. By the grace of God, we get to choose by decisions and actions we take or don't take. This generous initial response has been very affirming for me personally. I think more people have been listening than I was aware of and I'm encouraged as we face the longer term challenge to keep our income levels up so that we can increasingly share, by word and deed, the Good News of God's extravagant love.

Thank you so much, and may the Good Shepherd continue to guide and protect you,

Harold Henderson, Senior Pastor.