



# 1st United Methodist Church

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[www.fumcgv.org](http://www.fumcgv.org)

Church Council Meeting July 27, 2010, 7:00pm

## Agenda

Welcome by Chair, Mary Kilgour

Devotion

Minutes: approval of June 22, 2010 Minutes distributed by e-mail July 26th

### Staff Reports

1. *Pre-School Director – Amy Watson*
2. *Report on Helping Hands Clinics – Randy Stacey*
3. *Robert Jackson – Director of Music*
4. *Rachael Jordan – Youth Leader*
5. *Jill Wagstaff – Children’s Leader*
6. *Carl Romey – Assistant Pastor*
7. *Bill Yeager – Assistant Pastor*
8. *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. Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development
  - d. Other Committees
2. “*Voice It*” Comments Received since last meeting and suggested procedural changes - Chair

### New Business

1. Discussion of first Roundtable results: minutes available on FUMC website. Suggest you review them before Council meeting and offer comments at the Council meeting for forwarding to the August 9 Roundtable meeting.
2. Other new business – open to floor.

Closing Prayer

**Next Meeting: August 24, 2010**

## **MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **July 27, 2010**

The meeting started at 7:00 with a devotion by Dan Greathouse. The minutes of the June 22, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

Staff reports were distributed by Randy Stacey; Robert Jackson; Rachael Jordan; Jill Wagstaff; Carl Romey; Bill Yeager; and Harold Henderson. Amy Watson was not in attendance. Staff reports occasioned the following matters for discussion:

Use of funds designated for the Susan Moore memorial: It was the consensus that they be used for homeless women through the Helping Hands Clinic.

The Youth and Children's Leaders' request for additional funds for background checks for volunteers and staff was referred to the Finance Committee. The background checks are needed to bring the Church into compliance with UMC policy.

In response to a question from the Chair on how pastors allocated their time, Carl Romey estimated 50% with the homeless ministry, 5% with children and youth and 45% other, including special requests and Church administration Bill Yeager said he spent 65% on pastoral care, 10% on worship, 15% with educational programs and 10% on administration

Under Old Business, committee chairmen submitting reports included the following:

Larry Shaw for United Methodist Men, who said there were no summer meetings but members have been doing repairs around the church and will help with IHN.

Jeff Cheek, Finance Chair, reviewed the June 30 financial statements, discussing the budgeted figures and revenue to date, including a brief discussion of designated funds.

Dr. Henderson, as chair of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, stated that Joanie Thompson had requested to not be chairman of the Children's Ministry Team after having done it several years. Sheri Helm had been selected as the new team leader. The Council voted to accept the nomination of Joanie Thompson as an at-large member of the Council. Muffet Emmanuel called Dr. Henderson's attention to the fact she, and not Nancy Tomkins, is now SPRC liaison with the Children's Ministry Team.

Also under Old Business, Mary Kilgour noted that the procedure for processing the “Voice It” forms was not working as planned. The sheets were reaching the church office but the Council was not receiving subsequent feedback. Since the Council has responsibility for reporting on actions taken on the submitted forms, it needs to take a more central role. She said she, as chair was willing to do this and would talk with Tim Leslie about revising the form to spell out the procedure.

Under New Business, there was a brief discussion of the first Leadership Round Table meeting held on July 19. Minutes of that meeting can be found on the church’s website and Council members were urged to review them and, as appropriate, attend the next Roundtable meeting, scheduled for August 9 at 6:30 in the Bethany Room.

Meeting adjourned with a prayer by Dr. Henderson at 9:10.

A hard copy of all staff reports received in writing can be found in the Church office and copies received electronically by Leon Couch are also available on the church website, [www.fumcgv.org](http://www.fumcgv.org), as are copies of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey Lewis/Mary Kilgour

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First United Methodist Church  
Tuesday, July 27, 2010  
Report to the Council  
by Robert Jackson, Director of Music Ministries

Continuing Education is an important element in a church musician's ministry and one I firmly believe in as well. I also believe that a church that invests in its staff by providing adequate continuing education funding benefits significantly as well. By attending various continuing education events throughout the year I am able to hone my skills, get recharged to provide up-to-date and better leadership in my church ministry by learning new concepts and ideas, be in community with fellow musicians, and take the opportunity to improve my professional relationships as I represent First UMC by networking with nationally known music clinicians and clergy. As in all things, the cost of registration and housing while attending these types of events has increased dramatically over the years. Unfortunately the allotted funding has not kept pace. Yet, in spite of diminished funds, I was fortunate to be able to attend two such continuing education opportunities this summer.

The first opportunity was the **Music and Liturgical Arts Week**, sponsored by The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts (FUMMWA), in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Initially I was not planning to attend this event, due to limited continuing education funds here at First Church, but at the last minute I was invited to serve on the staff as the handbell area assistant, which fortunately helped pay my way in full. I would not have been able to attend this event this year otherwise.

The second opportunity, which was paid through continuing education funds, was the **Church Music Workshop**, which is sponsored by The Florida Chapter of FUMMWA and was held at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. Both events offered me a time away to worship daily in community, learn from nationally known clinicians and experience a wonderful fellowship of church musicians. I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my gratitude to the many volunteers who have provided or have yet to provide special music in the Sunday services while the chancel choir and instruments were taking a much needed and well deserved, albeit short, break this summer. Many thanks to Lynn Sandefure-Gardner, Elvis Gomez, Sue Addis, Cynthia Hight, B.J. Jiménez, Rachael Jordan, Glenda Gable, Jack & Sondra Moorhead and Joy Green-Byron.

Looking ahead, the choirs will begin their rehearsal schedules as follows:

- Chancel Choir – August 25
- Instrumental Ensemble – September 1
- Kidz Music Club – September 8

In October, First Church Chancel Choir & Clergy will once again participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Choirs. The clinician this year will be Dr. Eric Nelson, Professor of Music at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, and has been commissioned to compose an anthem in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Festival of Choirs performance will be on Sunday, October 3, 5:00m PM at First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville.

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Rachael Jordan- Church Council Report- July 27, 2010

This past month has been exciting but boring, busy but slow, and chaotic but well..... chaotic! MYF has taken a hiatus for the summer but will be back up and running on August 29<sup>th</sup>. I have managed to put together a calendar for the entire school year and let me just say that once we start, we won't be stopping. I haven't truly changed anything, just added to it. To outline the new program, it will consist of 8 units ranging from 3 to 6 weeks long. I would have copied you all a calendar but it's 8 pages. Each unit has a specific topic that generally affects teenagers such as College/Career, Relationships, Rebellion, or Money Management. Then each week has a more specific sub-topic based on the unit topic. During each unit, we will also get involved in a service project of some sort. Everything is very rigid yet very flexible so that changes can easily be made if need be. With incorporating more worship into the youth program, we would like to begin a contemporary service of sorts to begin in January. However, we will bring forward more information on that as planning progresses.

Jill and I are very happy to have VBS over with, not because we didn't enjoy it, but because we are very excited about next year. Next year, we are hoping to partner with a couple other churches like Holy Trinity Episcopal and Parkside Baptist, with smaller children and youth programs like our own, and possibly plan an overnight VBS. We are also planning on hosting a youth conference of sorts between those churches during the same week. So get excited! I had the opportunity to volunteer last week at Holy Trinity's VBS and I have to say, that it made me proud to have the kind of volunteer base that we have at this church! We want to thank everyone who volunteered their time throughout the week and everyone who donated items. Our poor office hasn't quite gotten back into order after that ordeal but it's getting there! Jill has also helped me extensively with our makeover of the youth area. It's nowhere near being done yet but it's looking really cool!

The other new program that we are implementing in the fall is our new Wednesday evening activity called FUSION! It will be for all ages, especially children and youth, and the idea is to incorporate the arts into worship through dance, music, and drama. The participants will have the opportunity to spread the Word of God in ways not really offered at this church before. It's going to be really fun!

Amy, Jill and I have been discussing the Children/Youth Protection Policy and have found that there is a very good possibility that we can conduct our own training in this area. With that assumption in mind, we have scheduled an FUMC Children and Youth Volunteer Training on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 3pm. We have checked that it doesn't conflict with Gator football at 3:30 against Tennessee. However, Jill and I are running into some issues with the required background checks in regard to which budgets the cost should be pulled from. Cristle said that as far as she could tell, staff background checks could come out of staff contingency but that checks for children and youth volunteers would need to come out of the children and youth budgets since there wasn't anywhere else for them to come from. At almost \$40 apiece, performing the checks on all the required volunteers will

deplete our already small budgets. We would like to ask if the council could override the children and youth budgets by the final amount of the checks since this expense was not budgeted for within the respective budgets. We would also ask that a separate line item be established in future budgets that is specifically for volunteer and staff background checks so that we can be accountable and in compliance with conference policy without having to take away our program funding.

Respectfully submitted  
*Rachael Jordan*

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Church Council Report  
7/27/10

*Jill Wagstaff*  
Director of Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School went well and was a great chance for Rachael and I to improve our communication skills. We had a lot of wonderful volunteers, both adults and youth, and we are very thankful for all their help. I would like to recognize Jeremy Howard as an outstanding youth volunteer; Rachael and I were extremely proud of him and how well he engaged with the children.

The Children's Committee met on July 18<sup>th</sup> and worked to reformat some structural focuses of the committee to better serve the children. We also finished up our months long process of creating a new mission statement. The previous mission statement was "To make disciples through our worship and relationships." We felt this was a little difficult to understand, especially for children and the unchurched, and wanted to be a little more specific, so we adopted the new mission statement "To encourage and support children in their spiritual journey as part of the community of believers by providing them opportunities to experience and share God through play, service, prayer, and celebration." We are also considering a new name and tagline: Spark! Igniting Faith by Learning the Basics. The idea is that since Rachael and I are trying to set up the children's and youth programs to be one continuous spiritual development program where the two parts work together to complement and support each other, then the Spark ignites the faith, the Fuel nurtures the flame, and these images both tie into the Methodist cross and flame symbol as well.

A major focus of the children's committee is going to be helping me get us into compliance with the Florida Conference Child/Youth Protection Policy. I have already set up some of the requirements, such as having sign in sheets for all classes and activities for children and having our two small Sunday School classes meet in the same room so that we are in compliance with the Two Adult Rule. I'm working with Tim from Staff Parish to help determine the best way to go about obtaining the required background checks, and have spent a lot of time producing the required consent and application forms. Even though I am trying my best to communicate clearly with everyone involved, change is rarely a smooth process. So I ask for your prayers for our leaders and volunteers and that everyone will understand that the paperwork, background checks, and required trainings will truly benefit our children's ministry and that this is a conference requirement and not just me

trying to make their lives more complicated. I also ask for prayers that new children's leaders will emerge from within the congregation. Right when I was coming into this position we had several of our children's leaders move away or step down (for very valid reasons) which has made it somewhat difficult to make everything happen that needs to happen. I don't mind approaching people but I also don't want everyone to feel like I'm bugging them, so I would just ask that you pray that God would identify potential leaders to me and open their hearts to working with the children.

For fall, Rachael and I are going to begin a new program for children, youth and adults that will function essentially as a Wednesday evening class. FUSION will give us an opportunity to use music, dance, drama and other worship arts to celebrate Jesus, fellowship together, and explore the Scriptures in an active way. We hope to also use the program as a basis for bringing the arts into our main worship services, for example, having the drama group occasionally perform a drama based on the lectionary in place of our typical Sunday morning Children's Moment. Another possibility is using it as a way to outreach into the community during local events such as the Spring Arts Festival.

Last but not least, I am working on the calendar of children's activities for the school year and will have that ready to finalize with the Children's Committee at our meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

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July 27, 2010  
Gainesville, FL

*Carl E. Romey*  
Compassion Ministry Pastor

## Church Council Report

Council Members,

It is an hour before we meet and I have been reflecting on this day for it has been like many of my days with the exception that each day has its own list of meetings, deadlines and unexpected encounters. Let me share with you from a few hours in the life of one of your pastors.

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. I stayed at home dealing with mail relating to church business (my computer has “bit the dust” and I am in the process of buying a new one for my office.

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting followed by Ministerial Staff Meeting

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. I took a man who is facing testifying in a court case in which he killed a man (self-defense) to Meridian Health Center for medications.

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. I did a final counseling with a street person who had just signed a plea bargain agreement for crimes and will be headed to jail for six months, starting this Friday. He has been in my counseling program for three months.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Counseling and lunch with a man on probation then I took him to where he is doing community service hours.

3:30 p.m. Finally back at church.... Phone rings, okay, I will be right there.

3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Called to mediate a domestic verbal abuse situation in the “inner city” The parties all came to an agreement, everyone is going their own way.

5:45 p.m. I am seated in the front office, mentally and somewhat physically drained and thinking about everything I need to accomplish this week.

Since we are to report on not only things completed here are the things ahead of me, your pastor of compassion ministry:

- A. March of Dimes Gourmet Banquet & Entertainment – August 2010
- B. Boot Camp Training for the Grief Share Program – August 2010
- C. Plans & Events for the Young Married with Children – August 2010
- D. Co-ordination of the Nursery Expansion Volunteer Program that **MUST** be ready by September 2010.
- E. Regular visits to the Alachua County Jail to share with inmates.
- F. Personal Trip to Indiana to visit my Father-in-law – August 2010
- G. Personal Vacation Days, September & late November 2010.
- H. Possibly attending “Sombra e Agua” (“Shade & Water”) Convention, to which I have been invited to be an international guest, in Sao Paulo, S.P. Brazil in October 2010. It is an International Convention being given by the Methodist Church in Brazil.
  
- H. Further training for the children as the Kazoo King of Religious music. During our V.B.S., I taught the children the “delicate” art of making “Majestic Music” with Kazoos.
  
- I. Finally, I have decided **NOT** to attend any conferences for writing Christian Rap for Sunday Worship this year .... much to the relief of the congregation!
  
- J. In my spare time my wife wants me to paint the inside of the house and do some touch-up work on the outside painting, stain the deck and keep up on the mowing, gardening. Hopefully there will some “me” time so that I can ride my motorcycle and blow the cobwebs out of my mind.

With these past events and future plans I have been a part of sharing with the families of the sick and the dying. I am involved in pre-marital, wedding counseling for Ashley Rodriguez and her fiancé. I sense God’s strength, blessing and wisdom at all times. I appreciate a church that supports this ministry.

Respectively Submitted, Carl E. Romey, Compassion Ministry Pastor

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Church Council Report

*Dr. Harold Henderson*

## **The Future – What Might It Look Like?**

In recent days, I have been trying to articulate my vision for First United Methodist Church as we move through our 16<sup>th</sup> decade of worship and service in Gainesville. I do so from the perspective of the most recent 3+ years in our long 153-year history. They happen to be 3+ years of turn-around following 25 years of numerical decline in membership and church attendance, children and youth ministries, and young adult and family participation, though not in income that has shown a 40% increase over the last ten years.

I have addressed elsewhere the factors that I think have been significant in contributing to the turn-around. Today, I am trying to imagine what we might look for if the turn-around develops into a sustained growth pattern. Here is some of what I would look for and work towards.

- + Membership of between 750 and 1,000.
- + Worship attendance of 350 to 500 (higher than the national percentage for United Methodism).
- + Preaching and worship (in the Wesleyan Tradition) that are inspiring, relevant, theologically and intellectually stimulating, challenging and supportive.
- + Music that is broad in its range, participative and of the highest quality.
- + Growing children and youth ministries in numbers, range and educative and spiritual depth and quality.
- + Thriving ministries appropriate to the needs and interests of young adults (usually early 20's-35).
- + Attractive program activities for families (for parents and children combined and separately, including such support services as nursery, FUMPers, children and youth ministries etc.)
- + Creative new activities for younger retirees (“boomers”).
- + Continuing ministries appropriate to the needs of increasing numbers of older retirees to be anticipated in a church with a long history.
- + Comprehensive pastoral care (including sacramental ministry) for increasing numbers of older retirees as they become confined to their homes and/or nursing care facilities, and experience bereavement and end-of-life issues.
- + Comprehensive adult Christian Education ministries at various times designed to create fellowship and foster growth in Christian knowledge and discipleship.
- + Outreach into the (downtown) community among the homeless and the working poor on the one hand and professional, business and public service personnel on the other.
- + Relevant outreach into the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- + Intentional and ongoing cultivation, recruitment and preparation of new members by clergy and laity alike.

- + Continued maintenance of our strategic property as an inviting symbol of the Divine Presence in our city and community.
- + Intentional and generous stewardship as an integral expression of our Christian discipleship to sustain adequate operational budget and longer term capital needs, with flexibility to meet new challenges and opportunities as they arise.
- + Openness to acquire adjacent property to accommodate the possibilities of growth.
- + Continued cultivation of positive and harmonious relationships with such specialized activities as FUMPers, Boy and Girl Scouts and Helping Hands.
- + Incorporation of a more focused emphasis on healing and wholeness, and on prayer
- + A strong commitment to mission and outreach beyond our own backyard.
- + A warm and sensitive embrace of newcomers seeking a sense of belonging.
- + Activities that bear witness to the fact that it's OK to have fun!
- + Re-vitalized and expanded men's ministry.

There's much more – I've had to develop this list off the top of my head. I believe our church has exciting new growth and development at its fingertips. I pray that we won't snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Harold Henderson,  
Senior Pastor.  
July 27, 2010/Revised August 24, 2010