



1st United Methodist Church

The Heart of Downtown Gainesville 352-372-8523
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Church Council Meeting August 24, 2010, 7:00pm

Agenda

Welcome by Chair, Mary Kilgour

Devotion

Minutes: approval of July 27, 2010 Minutes distributed by e-mail August 6

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. Other Committees
2. *“Voice It”* Comments Received since last meeting - Chair

New Business

1. Discussion of second Leadership Roundtable results: minutes of August 9 meeting available on FUMC website. Suggest you review them before Council meeting and offer comments at the Council meeting for forwarding to the August 30 Roundtable meeting.
2. Other new business – open to floor.

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: September 28, 2010

First United Methodist Church, Gainesville FL
Church Council Meeting - August 24, 2010

PERSONS PRESENT: Jeff Cheek, Leon Couch, Jo Anna Emerson, Jim Emerson, Peggy Halsey, Sheri Helm, Harold Henderson, Robert Jackson, Rachael Jordan, Mary Kilgour, Barbara Kirby, Tim Leslie, Jim Nation, Carl Romey, Liz Shaw, Lawrence Shaw, Randy Stacy, Jill Wagstaff, Amy C. Watson, Bill Yeager

Mary Kilgour called the meeting to order at 7 PM in the Bethany Room, FUMC. The opening prayer was by Jim Emerson. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as sent electronically to participants.

STAFF REPORTS

Randy Stacy: Randy made a brief report of recent activities with the Helping Hands Clinic and the Women's Clinic. The Women's Clinic is now in its 11th month of operations and it is going well with increasing numbers of women coming to the clinic.

Robert Jackson (BJ): Written report attached.

Amy Watson: Written report attached.

Rachael Jordan: Written report attached.

Jill Wagstaff: Written report attached.

Carl Romey: Carl reported that he regularly meets on Monday and Wednesday with homeless persons to administer help and support. He is doing counseling at the local jail, and reported a need for more counseling at the jail. He counsels at the jail typically on Thursday evenings. He reported that on Sept. 13-17, he will be on vacation in Indiana.

Bill Yeager: Written report attached.

Harold Henderson: Written reports attached.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Leslie reported that the Staff Parish Relations Committee has been working to redefine part-time vs. full-time employment at FUMC, and the new definition of full-time work is working 30 or more hours per week. This definition also is in alignment with the definition of full-time work set by the Methodist Conference in Lakeland. He said that the SPR Committee is working to enhance and extend ways for staff to get spiritual and educational experiences.

Jeff Cheek: Jeff briefly discussed the financial statements that are attached.

Nominating Committee: Harold Henderson reported that the committee is working on nominations to present to the Charge Conference later in the fall.

Mary Kilgour said that she was not receiving any Voice-It statements that SPRC had prepared and that are now in the pew-back holders. The forms have been revised to make the procedure clearer. She urged attendees to talk up the availability of the forms.

NEW BUSINESS

The minutes for the Round Table were filed on the church website earlier, but Mary Kilgour summarized a number of important conclusion from the minutes, as follows:

1. A clear statement of the need to promote work with Young Adults
2. Acceptance of the ministry to the Homeless and Poor as essential to our location and to the need around us.
3. A need to effectively communicate our needs and our ministry to the congregation.
4. Need for a clear statement of our vision as a Church, and development of a long-range plan for ministry and action.
5. Revise and extend Dr. Harold Henderson's statement relative to the Roundtable activities and a statement of "Making Sense of First Church, Gainesville" and both of these statements are attached to the Council Minutes as part of Dr. Henderson's staff report above.
6. The third Round Table meeting will be Monday, August 30, at 6 PM.
7. Begin to develop a 3-year plan for FUMC and clear statement of our vision for FUMC at the next meeting.

Carl Romey closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jim Nation.

First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers) Report

-presented to the Church Council on August 24, 2010

FUMPers will be beginning the 2010-2011 school year on Tuesday, Sept 7th.

I ask for your prayers for a successful year!

- We are excited to welcome a new teacher to our teaching team at First United Methodist Preschool. Michelle Driver has been hired as our Lead teacher in the 4 yr old Hopping Frogs Pre-K class.
- All of the teachers begin preparing the classrooms and doing preplanning this upcoming Monday, Aug 30th.
- During the summer months, some upgrades have or will take place in the preschool area in Bell Hall:
 - I spent the an evening with the Single/Single Again group and shared with them about the preschool program. I appreciate their interest and their monetary donation to FUMPers.
 - The Trustees paid toward the painting and renovation of a classroom. A big thanks to them - the room is very inviting.
 - The floors have been waxed and buffed by Tony Taylor - a big thanks to him! They look great.
 - The Preschool is expanding! Due to space and privacy issues the Preschool Office will be housed in a corner of the Media Center.
 - Playground cleanup will take place this Saturday. This will be a combined effort and service project by the preschool, the youth and the scouts of FUMC. Thanks to Alden Sharp for organizing the groups.
- I recently attended a FL Conference lead training on the Child Protection Policy changes. The training was helpful in making sure I am doing all needed to make sure the preschool is following proper procedures as mandated by the Conference.
- The Preschool will have its Open House on Sept 30th at 6pm. The preschool area will be open to FUMPers students, their families and the FUMC family. This is an evening to show off the preschool, highlight our curriculum and continue building relationships. We welcome anyone interested in learning about our program to come see our inviting space and join us in a potluck dinner and fellowship.

Thank you for your support of this ministry of FUMC Gainesville

- submitted by Amy C. Watson

Director, First United Methodist Preschool

fumpers@fumcgvn.org

352-373-0108

First United Methodist Church Council

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Report from Robert Jackson, Director of Music Ministries

As reported numerous times in worship services the last few weeks, all choirs and musical groups will be starting rehearsals for the new year as follows:

- Wednesday, August 25 – Chancel Choir
- Wednesday, September 1 – Instrumental Ensemble
- Thursday, September 2 – Celebration Ringers
- Wednesday, September 8 – KIDZ Music Club

And it is with joy I announce that Celebration Ringers will be gaining 2 new members which will help fill some vacancies and The Chancel Choir will include 7 new members. The instrumental ensemble remains consistent at 11 members.

Two events remain on our Concert Series schedule:

1. “Revisiting the Old Hymns” – Rebecca Brown, Piano
Sunday, September 26, 2010 – 2:00 PM, Sanctuary
2. Organ Recital – Dr. Mark Coffey
Sunday, November 7, 2010 – 2:00 PM, Sanctuary

The Chancel Choir will be participating in the 25th Annual Festival of Choirs on Sunday, October 3rd at First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville. The guest clinician will be Dr. Eric Nelson, Professor of Music at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia and Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Chorus. Church members are encouraged to attend the Festival Worship Service which will begin at 5:00 PM and join our choir members in a reception following.

Jenny Eckenrode, Evelyn Jones and myself will be attending the 12th annual Distinctly Bronze Handbell Festival October 6-10, 2010 in New Bern, North Carolina. This event is for advanced ringers who must audition to participate. First Church should be very proud that we have three people from a single church (more than average) who have auditioned and been accepted to participate.

Looking into December, our Christmas Music program will be Sunday, December 12, during a single service at 10:30 AM. The program will be presented by Celebration Ringers, The Children’s Choir, the Instrumental Ensemble, and Chancel Choir, and will include K. Lee Scott’s “Christmas Cantata” as the focal material for the service.

Finally, your attendance and participation in the weekly services and equally important, your support of concert programs, is always welcomed. And as always, all church members are invited to sing or play in any part of the music program here at First UMC. We still have plenty of seats available. See you at rehearsal.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Jackson

First, I would like to express my appreciation of Charlene Smith, who has been creating our Sunday School curriculum and thus allowing me time to focus on the many other areas of our children's ministry that need more immediate attention.

This month I have been seeking God's will for our ministry and been in prayer as to the process of finding leaders for our programs. This process is slow moving and is really stretching me to be patient and trust that God will provide the leadership when we are ready to receive it. It is quite stressful that our fall programs are beginning in two weeks and I have no confirmed leaders, but I also feel at peace that God is working on the hearts of those potential leaders and that He will soon be revealing his plans to them.

I feel very confident that God wants for us to have volunteer leaders who have a heart for discipling children and a desire to develop trusting relationships with them. As I pray the "quality over quantity" notion keeps coming back to me, and I feel strongly that seeking dedicated leaders and working with them in their areas of interest and talent is going to be the turning point that takes our ministry from good to great. While it is not a particularly radical idea, it is very much in contrast with the "filling an empty spot" type of volunteer recruitment that seems to take place most often.

I have been focusing a lot of my time on research and creation of a volunteer/leader handbook for the children and youth ministry. Because most of the material, procedures, and policies are the same, Rachael and I felt it would best express our solidarity to have one document that would cover all leaders and keep our two programs consistent with each other. This has already taken a great deal of my time and I am really just approaching the tip of the iceberg. I ask for your continued prayer that God would lead me in the creation of this document and that my discernment would be effective throughout this process. There is struggle in that there is so much that needs to be said, but at the same time it needs to be as concise as possible. Once this document is complete we plan to use it as a basis for our volunteer training on September 18th.

We are in the process of becoming entities of both TRAK-1 and the FDLE VECHS program. We have determined that any volunteer working with children or youth on a regular basis who is SUPERVISED (for example assistants, helpers, and Vacation Bible School volunteers) may undergo the TRAK-1 background check which is run through the applicant's social security number and drivers license number and does not require fingerprinting. This will only cost about \$10 per applicant plus a \$3.50 a month fee. There is also a one-time setup fee of \$50.00. For all staff and any volunteer who might ever need to be left ALONE with children (for example Amy Watson teaches the YIT Sunday School class alone as she does not currently have an assistant) we will require the local, state, and national check that will be processed through the VECHS program. This will cost \$33.25 per applicant. We will try to save money by also accepting any up-to-date background check done through the school board or DCF facility that an applicant can provide us with the proper documentation for.

Plans for the fall festival are being actively completed. Our idea is to make the event somewhat of a neighborhood "block party" as well as incorporating our traditional fall festival activities. Some of the festival events will take place in Roper Park and I am attending the Duckpond Neighborhood Association meeting on September 14th to discuss the possibility if the DNA partnering with us for this event. I have met with city commissioner (and former DNA president) Randy Wells, who has given me some direction and additional ideas, as well as sharing some institutional knowledge of neighborhood events. There will more to report in this area next month.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

24 AUGUST 2010

WILLIAM H YEAGER, ASSISTANT PASTOR

The Care Partners committee continues its excellent work, with additions and deletions as they become necessary. Mary Singley has recently joined the “team” with her experience and knowledge with the elderly of our congregation. We have had three others express an interest in becoming a part of the ministry. It is hoped that these will be able to attend the next meeting on September 7th.

The courses are now set for Wednesday evenings in the fall, following the suppers at 5:30pm. There will be a preview on September 1st at 6:15pm for registrations. The classes will be held, as usual, at 6:15 each week, beginning on September 15th. Peggy Halsey will be giving a special talk on The General Board of Global Ministries, Wednesday evening, September 8th.

Fall Offerings

<u>Wesleyan Theology</u> , led by Harold Henderson	Bethany Room
<u>Grief Share</u> , led by Carl Romey and Doug Kirk	Parlor
<u>Fusion</u> , led by Rachael Jordan & Jill Wagstaff	Bell Hall (second floor)
<u>Disciple Study on Romans</u> , led by Dan & Kay Greathouse	Conference Room
<u>The Wired Word</u> , led by Bill Yeager	(to be held at The Village)

Plans are beginning, to revive a ministry to and for Young Adults. A pool party has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, September 18th, at our home in Robin Lane, near the Santa Fe campus. I have also agreed to teach a new Sunday School class, using the same curriculum as at The Village on Wednesday evenings. The material is inter-generational and always timely.

I want to continue to express my thanks for all of these opportunities.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Yeager

Dr. Henderson's reports follows.

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 16th 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

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