

Church Council Meeting November 30, 2010, 7:00pm

Agenda

Welcome by Chair, Mary Kilgour

Devotion

Minutes: approval of October 26, 2010 Minutes distributed by e-mail November 20, 2010

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 action assignments coming out of Roundtable discussions under the charge of your committee as well as key ongoing and future happenings.
 - a. Staff Parrish – Tim Leslie
 - b. Finance – Jeff Cheek
 - c. Trustees – Leon Couch
 - d. Other Committees
2. *Update on Committee Responsibilities received to date* – Chair
Received to Date: Council, Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, Mission & Outreach, FUMC Pre-school Board, Stewardship, Youth Fellowship Ministry, Children's Ministry..
Not Yet Received: Finance, Nominations & Leadership Development, Family Life Ministries, Christian Education Ministry, Worship Ministry
3. *“Voice It”* Comments Received since last meeting – Chair – 2 to Finance and 2 to Senior Pastor for staff consideration. Status of actions?

New Business

1. Council action on 2011 budget.
2. Other new business – open to floor.

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: January 25, 2010

First United Methodist Church, Gainesville FL
Church Council Meeting – November 30, 2010

PERSONS PRESENT: Cleo Abbott, Eric Burcham, Jeff Cheek, Leon Couch, Sally Cravens, Muffet Emanuel, Kay Greathouse, Dan Greathouse, Peggy Halsey, Harold Henderson, Rachael Jordan, Mary Kilgour, Jim Knight, Tim Leslie, Jim Nation, Carl Romey, Randy Stacy, Mark Thompson, Jill Wagstaff, Amy C. Watson, Bill Yeager

WELCOME by Chair, Mary Kilgour - 7:15 PM in the Bethany Room, FUMC.

PRAYER: Mary Kilgour

MINUTES of October 26, 2010 meeting: Approved as distributed by E-mail on November 20, 2010/

STAFF REPORTS:

1. Pre-School Director – Amy Watson. Written report attached.
2. Report on Helping hands Clinic- Randy Stacey. Written report attached.
3. Director of Music – Robert Jackson. Written report attached
4. Youth Leader – Rachael Jordan. Written report attached
5. Children’s Leader – Jill Wagstaff. Written report attached
6. Assistant Pastor – Carl Romey. Written report attached
7. Assistant Pastor – Bill Yeager. Written report attached
8. Senior Pastor – Harold Henderson. Written report attached. In addition, Dr Henderson passed out a copy of the report from the Nominations and Leadership Committee showing the 2011 Church Council Voting Member, Members at Large, Staff, and members of the various committee of the Church. Some vacancies in the committees and/or chair for some committees still remain to be filled. The written copy is attached, and the motion to accept it came from the Nominations and Leadership Committee, chaired by Dr. Henderson. Jim Nation seconded the motion and the vote was 11 for the motion, and no votes against. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Staff Parish – Tim Leslie. No specific report, the committee is involved with interviewing candidates for the position of organist.

b. Finance Committee - Jeff Cheek. Budget data for November is attached as a written report. The major part of the remainder of the meeting was spent in discussing Church finances, results from the recent 2011 pledging campaign, and 2011 budget plans. As of the date of this meeting, Jeff said that approximately \$476,000 had been pledged. The total initial request for funding from the various groups in the Church came to slightly over \$800,000, but Jeff reported that the Finance Committee felt that \$735,000 is a realistic expectation for Revenue in 2011. The Finance Committee in their meeting just prior to the Council meeting made a motion, and Jeff brought it to the Council as follows:

MOTION: That every unit in the 2010 budget should take a cut of 5% in the total expenses for the unit, with the provision that Jeff Cheek and Eric Burcham will immediately begin to develop a plan to deal with the fact that about 75 pledging units (active last year) have not pledged as of the date of this meeting. The vote on this motion was 3 for the motion and 8 against the motion. Thus, the motion did not pass.

After some additional discussion, a new motion was proposed by Jim Knight, and seconded by Jim Nation, as follows:

MOTION: That Jeff and Eric research a plan to deal with the 75 missing pledges; that the various Church Committees look at their 2011 budget plans and tentatively determine where budget cuts and how much can be made if eventually necessary; that we should all pray daily for the Church and its plans and goals for 2011; and that 2010 expenditures will be used at the beginning for 2011 until amended otherwise. The vote on this motion was 11 for the motion and no opposing votes. Thus, the motion carried.

Dr. Henderson expressed the view that he hoped that the Church would not abandon or put on hold its growth because of present budget problems. This led to the following motion by Jim Nation, seconded by Randy Stacey, as follows:

MOTION: That we affirm that FUMC is a Church that plans and intends to continue to grow spiritually and numerically; and that we explore and plan for fund raising commensurate with this goal. The vote on this motion was 11 for the motion and no opposing votes. Thus, the motion carried.

It was nearly 9 PM and no further discussion or action was taken.

SUBSEQUENT NOTE: Mary Kilgour has called a meeting of the Council for Dec. 19 after the 11 AM service to discuss further action on the 2011 budget and Phase II of the Master's Plan.

Mary Kilgour closed the meeting with prayer.

The minutes submitted by Jim Nation.

First United Methodist Preschool Report
-presented to the Church Council on November 30, 2010

Monthly theme:

We have been learning through play during November while exploring our monthly theme: All About Fall. One class painted with textured material to make maize pictures. One class learned about the girth of trees by measuring them on our playground. Another class made turkey table decorations that included a math lesson with the project.

Bible Time topics:

On Monday mornings during November we have been learning about Moses at our weekly Bible Time. We've discussed how we can do great things with God's help and we learned about God's 10 rules.

Community Service project:

The Preschool families joined together with FUMC during the season of Thanksgiving to donate items to Gainesville Community Ministries. FUMPers contributed 5 large baskets of food toward this ministry. We have been focusing on lessons about sharing with others this month.

Fall Events:

We enjoyed a time of food and fellowship with 87 family members and friends at our Thanksgiving Feast on the 22nd of this month. The children presented songs and a play while dressed in traditional first Thanksgiving costumes.

FUMPers will be having at our annual Christmas program on Wednesday, December 15th at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. At the program, the children will present several songs followed by a reading of the Christmas story. Then to the delight of all, we will have a visit from Santa. Topping off the morning, we will fellowship together with a potluck lunch.

The church family is always welcome to join us at any of our events. It would be a perfect time to meet the families attending the preschool and a opportunity to invite them to our church!

- submitted by Amy C. Watson
Director, First United Methodist Preschool
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352-373-0108

First United Methodist Church Council

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Report from Robert Jackson, Director of Music Ministries

The search for an organist continues. We have interviewed two candidates thus far, and the final interview is this Sunday, December 5 after the 10:55 am service. To recap, we have heard and interviewed Lorraine Amick (local) and Watson Joseph (Ocala). The third person is Bob Bullis also from Ocala. It is the Staff Parish Committee intent to remain after this Sunday's interview to make a final decision and hopefully have a new organist in place by Sunday, December 19. As many of you might be aware, the Advent/Christmas season is a most difficult time to search for, let alone have one begin his/her duties. I am thankful that God has provided us three willing candidates to proceed through this process at this time. I am also thankful that Dr. John Lowe, from Holy Trinity Episcopal, and with the blessing of his senior pastor, has agreed to play for our Christmas Music program on the December 12. This generous act kept us from laying all this responsibility on the new organist with only one week to rehearse.

Looking into December, our Christmas Music program will be Sunday, December 12, during a UNITY service at 10:30 AM. The program will be presented by Celebration Ringers, The Children's Choir, the Instrumental Ensemble, and the Chancel Choir, and will include K. Lee Scott's "Christmas Cantata" as the focal material for the service. We are down to the final two rehearsals for this special program.

Since our last meeting, the new choir robes for the Chancel Choir were delivered. We did not expect them until this past week, but they arrived early November. The choir will wear them for the first time and they will be dedicated on Sunday, December 12 as part of the Christmas Music program. Again we wish to express our deepest appreciation to our anonymous donor for this most generous gift.

Looking into the new year, we have several guest artists scheduled or being scheduled to perform for our First Church family.

Sunday, February 6 – Organ Recital by Lee Cobb – 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 13 – The Baylor School SATB Ensemble, under the direction of
Mr. Vic Oakes, will sing during our 10:55 am service

Sunday, April 3 – Voices of United Lands, a small vocal ensemble will perform during our morning services and present a full concert program later in the afternoon.

Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 21 – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 22 – Good Friday

Sunday, April 24 – Easter

Sunday, May 22 – Jim Hendricks will once again bring us his piano stylings in both the morning services and a concert that afternoon.

Finally, your attendance and participation in the weekly services, and equally important, your support of concert programs, is always welcomed and greatly appreciated. As always, all church members are invited to sing or play in any part of the music program here at First UMC. See you at rehearsal.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Jackson

Rachael Jordan
Church Council Report
November 30, 2010

As for upcoming events, we are finishing out 2010 with the CROP Walk on December 5th as well as a Breakfast-in-a-Cup fundraiser the same day. We will be have a youth Christmas party on the 19th and are really looking forward to 2011. In January, we will be doing the Heifer Challenge with the children doing Fill-the-Ark and on February 6th, we will be helping with the Superbowl Party with the Community of Hope.

Youth surprise me every week! This past Sunday we combined our curriculum and the church calendar and talked about the story of the Good Samaritan and how it relates to the hope of Jesus Christ being born at Christmas. So, to avoid reading from the Bible, which would inevitably put me on the youth's most wanted list, I would rather have them recite stories back to me. So I did. From youth perspective, this is how it went.

"This is the story with the priest right? Yeah, so there was this guy. And he was all up on the side of the road, sick or something. And a priest just like walked by. And then I think there was this other guy that just kinda walked by too. And then there was the Good Samaritan who like took the guy to an inn or something... yeah."

When they aren't enlightening me with their fabulous recitations of Bible stories, they enjoy filling me in about everything pokemon thing or new Japanese music that I may have missed in the last 19 years of my life or all the reasons they hate math class, reading class and/or every other class at school. That's why I love them. I love their stories. Because in the end, no matter how many interruptions I get or how side tracked our discussions end up, they can still answer something like this:

"The kind of hope that the Good Samaritan brings to the man on the side of the road is just like the hope that Jesus brings to us. He will always pick us back up and help us get well, no matter what it takes!"

Church Council Report
11/30/10

Jill Wagstaff
Director of Children's Ministries

This month in Sunday School the children are exploring their family trees as we relate the story of Jesus' birth and His family. Using our own families as a model, we are learning about the many people in the Bible who were part of Jesus' lineage and how they were all related. This project is really helping the children to understand Jesus as a real person in a way they can relate to. Special thanks to Charlene Smith for this wonderful idea to add to our curriculum. We are also making crafts and decorations to send to some of our Loving Links members to help them have a special holiday season and know they are remembered by all of us here at FUMC.

Children's Church will be focusing on Advent this month, as well as exploring ways we can help others. We began this past Sunday by lighting our own Advent wreath during Children's Church and discussing the meaning of this special season. This unit will culminate in our "Birthday Party for Jesus" that will take place in Children's Church during the 10:55am service on Sunday, December 19th. We will be collecting canned goods to donate to the hungry, making cards and gifts for our homebound members, enjoying music, and of course, eating some delicious birthday cake! If you would like to help with this event please let me know. On this day we will not return to the sanctuary but rather have parents come upstairs to Bell Hall to pick up their children after the service. This will give us more time for all our special activities!

Last but not least, I created a web page for the children's ministry that Leon uploaded to the FUMC website a couple of weeks ago. Though not as detailed as I would like, it is definitely a start to providing a more informative and welcoming web presence for children and their families.

REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
November 30, 2010 – First United Methodist Church
Carl E. Romey, Pastor of Compassion Ministries

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The days hurry by quickly and we meet again. The ministry to the Community of Hope continues to grow. This month I started the Soup & Study night, meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We thought maybe we would have twelve to fifteen but instead hosted fifty-six men and women. Most stayed for the Bible study and really seemed to enjoy the event. This is not just another soup kitchen, but rather men and women from the Community of Hope showed up at 3:00 p.m. and started chopping veggies, setting tables, filled the dish washer and did whatever was needed. Then they stayed and cleaned up, taking the garbage out, sweeping floors, and washing pots and pans. They ran the dishwasher and put the dishes away. Everyone loved being involved and they many are asking if they can be a part of the work crew this next December 7th.

This has been a thrilling adventure.

I am working with Randy Stacey and committee for the Christmas Party for the Community of Hope at F.U.M.C. I think this will be an outstanding event on December 26, 2010 with many volunteers involved as well as workers from the C.O.H. Thank you for the tremendous support. The Christmas Communion service will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday the 26th.

The continuing activities I am involved in with the working poor and C.O.H. have focused on helping those with needs for Birth Certificates and Florida ID's. Personal spiritual counseling continues on Thursdays with short week-day appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. These are new extended hours due to the increased needs for prayer and encouragement. The brokenness is overwhelming. Thank you for allowing our church to meet many ongoing needs, way beyond just financial aspects. Our church is reaching deep into the community of the hurting. These people often have no one to talk to or share with. They are at the "end of their ropes." Suicide often enters their thought patterns and they share the wonderful relief in just getting some direction for their life.

I am gearing up for this Advent Season because before you know it, Lenten Season will be upon us. Keep me and the people of the F.U.M.C. Community of Hope in your prayers and in your sharing of time and finances.

God bless,
Carl E. Romey, Pastor of Compassion Ministry
First United Methodist Church
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Half Full or Half Empty: Senior Pastor's Report to Church Council, 11/30/10

In my recent enforced absence (not in Australia, as planned), I have had more time than I usually do to reflect on many things, not least of which is the church. In some ways, I have appreciated that, though there must be better ways to secure adequate thinking time! In passing, let me say that one of the toughest challenges of this exciting ministry is to find enough time for mature reflection and contemplation.

Since this is the last Church Council meeting for the year, I decided to make some of my reflections the basis for my report. Financially, it has been a difficult year, as it was always going to be once it became apparent that special Christmas giving in 2009 was significantly less than we have been accustomed to receiving. People who understand these things better than I do suggest that this was a reflection of the mood of uncertainty that dominated the economic outlook at that time. The consequence for us was that we had a much smaller carry-over than usual into 2010 creating cash flow problems.

This led to much discussion by the relevant committees. Analysis showed that expenditures were under budget, with everyone keeping costs under control responsibly in all areas of activity, but that income was also under budget creating a shortfall. Inevitably this led to serious debate as to whether we should cut costs by reducing budget allocations mid-stream versus inviting the congregation to increase income levels and preserve ministry and program opportunities.

I think it is fair to say that the congregation has responded (and is still responding) very generously in terms of increased giving, although there is still a shortfall, and the debate continues. That debate is the backdrop against which we approach the formulation of a manageable budget for 2011. There are those who say that it has ever been thus here at First Church (with 2009 being an unusual exception) and that we will cross the finishing line in good shape. Others believe that proceeding on an assumption like that is too risky and possibly even irresponsible. Some report that there is evidence of donor fatigue; others believe that increased giving at least counter-balances that.

It occurred to me as I thought about all the time and energy we have poured into these discussions that, in some ways, it seems a bit like the time-honored half full/half empty syndrome, depending probably on your perspective.

From where I sit, well aware of the financial struggles (since the Conference holds me ultimately accountable for the financial viability of the congregation), but at the same time privileged to be more in touch than most with the transforming power of the Gospel at work in countless people's lives through the broad-ranging ministries of this great church, the glass is definitely not half empty. From where I sit, there is a bottom line below the bottom line of balancing the budget – and that bottom line is **growing the church**. To put it another way, balancing the budget at the expense of growing the church is self-defeating because the church continues to grow or it dies. We have learned that it doesn't have to die, but that keeping it alive and growing will stretch and challenge us.