

## SUMC CHURCH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

### MINUTES

The following Council members were in attendance: James Gamble, Peter Gante, Crystal DesVignes, Lisa Potts, Andrew Harper, Marcie Briley, Mary Weiss, Scott Dodson, Mel Guss, Merle Epperson, Paula Roberson, Bonnie Johnson, Gay Williams, Carol Ferry, Brandon Armstrong, David Wilmoth, John Freshwater, Nancy Harris, Lou Collins, Maggie Pearce, Bonnie Bihary, Lois Craig

Guests: Sanders Hall, Ray Bihary

Council Chair, Mary Weiss, opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle and reading Psalm 105:1-6, followed by prayer.

Members were reminded to sign in and pick up the handouts for the meeting. The minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting were approved by consensus as emailed. Members were reminded to send copies of committee meetings to Bonnie Johnson and Anne Turnage. Please notify Lois if there are vacancies on your committees.

The following celebrations were noted: 51 participated in the youth ski trip; new confirmation class for older youth taught by Scott and Amy; high school girls beach retreat; Martha's Mission – Lenten luncheons; UMM's repairing roof and door for community member; Stephen's ministry underway with 6 ministers to be trained; 'Invite Friend to Church' Sunday successful.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:

Finance: Peter went over the 'Statement of Income and Expenditures for January, 2018'. Due to increased expenditures in January, the financial statement indicates that the church is in the red for now. This is an annual situation which is normally corrected during the year. Peter and Carol presented the 'Limited Study of Internal Control Structure' which is a necessary step toward an audit. The study showed that the church is doing things well financially.

Music Ministry: Merle announced that the Children's musical will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The choir's cantata will be on Palm Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00.

Evangelism: Gay Williams stated that the Evangelism Committee is focusing on the Welcome Centers and securing the necessary guides. It is her joy and privilege to be heading up such an enthusiastic group who are excited about the Lord.

Missions: Nancy Harris reported that a second trailer has been brought in for yard sale items. The main focus right now is the yard sale on April 21<sup>st</sup>. All mission efforts are doing well.

Youth: Maggie Pearce reported that the youth were happy, healthy and loving the Lord.

UMW: UMW is supporting the yard sale by helping in a variety of ways. Lisa also reminded the Council of the UMW Bake Sale on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

UMM: The 'Easter Bunny' will be at the Child Care on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 11am for pictures with the children. Peanut cooking continues according to schedule.

Board of Trustees: John Freshwater gave the Council the good news that there are no leaks in the Building Three and that the intruder locks have been installed on the Child Care classroom doors.

The bad news is that there is mold in the Barnum House. John expressed his thanks to John Lee for his work on the Barnum House. Considering the cost of testing, remediation and repairs, what is the best use of church's finances? Item to be discussed after additional information is acquired. Items for the yard sale stored in the Barnum House are to be thrown out and new purchased.

Trustees are also working on establishing another heating/air contract.

Trustees continue to receive requests from the community: a room for the Wounded Warriors to hold a music therapy program; storage space for the Crystal Coast Choral Society; humanitarian requests for ramps, roofs, etc. from the community.

Communications: Bonnie Johnson reported that Communications will be working on upgrading our road side marketing. Brandon has been asked to do the leg work on this project.

Brandon stated that new equipment (cameras, speakers and additional screen) has been ordered for the Assembly Hall; installation expected sometime

after Easter. The existing camera system in the Assembly Hall will be moved to the sanctuary.

Sanders Hall announced a Communications workshop to be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am – noon. Members of all committees are encouraged to participate to become equipped for communicating activities and events.

Members of Council expressed their gratitude for the beautiful Lenten flyer.

Worship: Lou Collins stated that all of the Christmas services went well. The Lenten services are underway. Marcie suggested that there be a sign-up for the March 6<sup>th</sup> dinner. Announcement to be placed in Sunday's bulletin. Merle commented that there are CD's of the Lenten services. The audio from the Lenten services will be online.

Education: Andrew Harper reported for Susan Fulp. Children's musical will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation class will go to Duke Chapel on March 18<sup>th</sup> and be confirmed in early May. The older confirmation class will be confirmed on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Friday/Saturday before hand will be a beach retreat with some participants being baptized in the ocean. An upcoming event for the youth will be a trip to Altitude Park in Jacksonville.

#### PASTORS' REPORTS:

Crystal announced that a sub-committee of SPRC has been interviewing candidates for the discipleship assistant position. That position should be filled by the end of the week with the person starting work next week.

Scott reported on the activities of the Lay Leadership Committee. Individuals have been asked to fill the following positions: Chair of Congregational Care, Council Secretary, a committee to love our seniors more.

Military Appreciation Day at Camp Don Lee is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Scott is in charge of tie dying shirts and needs help!

Holy Week services begin with Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

There will be two church-wide forums to inform the congregation on the 'Commission on the Way Forward', March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Both meetings will be in the Assembly Hall, Building Three.

Scott emphasized that the appropriate response to Don Woods' emails is to pray for him. Scott reminded the Council of God's love for all of us. Merle said he would show anyone interested how to block these emails. Marcie asked if there was any legal path to block the emails. Apparently not.

#### AREAS OF DISCUSSION/DISCERNMENT:

Storage and Parlor: Mel Guss presented Worship Committee's request for additional storage and to finish the parlor. Mel gave the background on using Room 34 for storage and Room 35 for the parlor. Lou stated that she was more concerned about having a parlor and suggested that Room 34 is larger and more adaptable for a parlor. Scott asked that all council members check out rooms 34 and 35 before the next Council meeting.

On the need for additional storage, Marcie suggested that we have a clean-out/clean-up for the church to find additional storage. Scott asked that the Council take a wait-and-see what happens with the Barnum house when considering additional storage.

Outdoor Welcome Center: Lois gave the background from the Joel Team on having Welcome Centers. Gay Williams handed out a design for the outdoor welcome center and explained how it would work. Scott reminded Council that it had already approved the use of the old acolyte room for storage. The outdoor welcome center was approved by consensus by Council. Gay stated the need for many guides to man all the welcome centers.

Business Directory: Nancy Harris stated that there had been a very low response for renewing the ads in the business directory. The questions of 'does the congregation want this or not' and 'is it worth trying harder to make it happen or not' were asked of Council. After much discussion, it was decided that all business listed should be emailed to see if they want to continue being listed in the directory and that there should be additional advertising of the directory, including slides and announcements at church services.

Pastor Scott closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Craig, secretary

