

SUMC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 23, 2018

The following members were present: Lisa Potts, Andrew Harper, John Freshwater, Peter Gante, Merle Epperson, Nancy Harris, Gay Williams, Bonnie Johnson, Carol Ferry, Mel Guss, Mary Weiss, Scott Dodson, Marie Hurst.

Guest: Yana Franz

Mary Weiss, Chairman, called the meeting to order and lit the Christ Candle. She read a short devotion from the book, Stories from the Heart entitled "Chosen." We are reminded that we have been chosen by God to be His people and to love one another in our service those around us. Mary offered the opening prayer.

Members were reminded by Marie to sign-in, pick up the handout (budget report) and agenda.

CELEBRATIONS WITH JOY:

Yana shared that kids from one of our church families are home now from the hospital. It has been nice to see several school children around church who have not been able to go back to school yet due to the hurricane. Yards are getting cleaned up and folks are working hard to get things back to normal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / UPDATES:

Finance: Peter reviewed several points on the "Statement of Income and Expenditures - September, 2018 (see handout for detailed information). We're in the 9th month of our fiscal year and should be in the 75th percent range of our finances. In reviewing the data, our committees are being careful in spending and monitoring the budget. At the last finance meeting, members voted with consensus to take \$20,000 from childcare. Our reserves are down to \$127,000.

Mel shared that special donations have been made in the amount of \$36,000 toward local hurricane relief. Currently, there is \$30,000 in account. Scott stated that the church wants to know of anyone who needs help; the church can help. Schools may also need help to rebuild their food pantry, we can help with that also. Any left over money can be seed money to fix people's houses. There were two conditions which apply to the special donations: 1-must be used to assist hurricane victims, and 2- must be used locally.

Music: Merle had no report except to pray for person to play the organ/piano at the traditional services.

SPRC: Scott reported that their over arching theme is saving money. Items committee covered:

1. Planning to reduce 2019 budget by 20%.
2. Brandon Armstrong's two positions will be split - music and technology. Trish Smith agreed to accept interim contemporary worship leader and Sanders Hall will come on board in the area of technology as a consultant.

3. Interviewed organist candidate but she said no.
4. Working on 2 bereavement and catastrophic weather policies.
5. Reworking system for lawn maintenance and church custodial services. A new plan for 2019 may be to combine with one custodial position at \$28-29,000 a year. 40 hrs a week.
6. Currently we are spending approximately \$40 an hour for cleaning services.
7. All members present agreed that there will be no raises in 2019 pastor salaries. Only health premiums, which may go up, will be funded.
8. Pastor Ron will not be paid next year 2019 and we will not hire any new children's personnel next year.
9. Steve will still be our AV tech.

Missions: Nancy Harris encouraged groups to keep budget as low as can go without hurting their programs.

Evangelism: Gay Williams shared that we have new signs for guest parking. Thanks goes to Yana for expediting this effort.

UMW: Lisa Potts stated that flood buckets and hygiene kits were taken to rotary, and 20+ AGAPE boxes for put together for Armenia. If we would like to request work teams for our area, we should put in a request with MERCY Center. The UMVIM (United Method Volunteers in Mission) send out teams to fill any requests made for help. Teams go to UMVIM to get flood buckets and items to take with them to the relief sites. UMVIM is located just outside of Goldsboro. We have no disaster teams in place at SUMC.

On November 7th, the Harvest Dinner will be held in Bldg. 3 by UMW.

We have received no information from our district superintendent about how to get help for our area.

Trustees: John Freshwater and Mel Guss shared that they will have their first meeting since the hurricane on Wednesday, October 24. At this time they have not heard back from the insurance company. At this meeting the needs will be prioritized as to the order of which areas/items will be fixed.

Communications: Bonnie Johnson had no report.

Yana shared that we would need some folks to pass out Christmas information cards

PASTOR'S REPORTS:

Andrew Harper:

The youth are planning this year's Fall Festival with a Trunk or Treat event; for more information contact Chris Wilson. Since the last church council meeting, the youth have been wrapping up a series about not just thinking about church as a building but as a way of life. They have also volunteered not only at the rotary, but to help with the trees in Pastor Scott's yard and take water-damaged items out of Mrs. Edmondson's basement. Pilgrimage will take place on November 9th, when about 40 people will be going to Fayetteville for worship and fellowship.

Scott Dodson:

Charge Conference will be held in late November. At the charge conference meeting, they will vote on lay leadership. SUMC will have our December church council on November 14.

The superintendent has asked, "Do we want to do special offering set up at charge conference to give additional \$\$ to schools damaged by Hurricane Florence?" There was approximately \$154 million dollars worth of damage done in the Sound District. \$125 million of that damage was done in Onslow County alone.

An email was sent to conference saying SUMC had \$448,000 worth of damages to the church. All requests for assistance originate from the district superintendent. Carol contacted her and provided 3 pieces of information regarding our damage. Pastor Scott had already sent a letter on October 18. There has been no reply from our conference to date.

Preaching Schedule:

We will be studying Titus, which embodies the ideals of being in service together. We should all be working in some area of the church. What are the things we need help with? Scott wants us to come up with a list of needs, list of things to share where folks are needed to help out in the church. Below are some of those areas of need:

- Organist / pianist for the traditional services
- Sunday evening child care
- Bible study for mid-morning mid-week class
- Tech volunteer
- Volunteers for Sunday evening security (men will be out front 4:30-6:30)
- Volunteers for Sunday kitchen help
- Volunteers to setup for receptions
- Acolytes
- Ambassadors
- Need folks to pass out Christmas pamphlets
- Need someone with commercial herbicide license to help with flower beds/bushes
- And more...

11/4 - All Saint's Sunday

11/11 - People to share Hurricane experiences

11/18 - Stewardship campaign - this is where we are, this is what we have cut, let's work together, this would include the \$20 Fellowship.

It was suggested to send something out about how our church is doing financially. Thinking on this.

The cuts involving our church will not impact worship or programming.

There are costs we don't know about yet but will be coming.

11/25 - Christ the King Sunday- invite a friend

On Sunday, October 28th, there will be a card in the bulletin with areas where people can be of service. People should write their name, email and phone number on the card and bring it up to altar after checking off any areas where they can be of service. They can also write things in if they like.

Carol asked if it is possible to get a quote for just the commercial part of maintaining our grounds vs. the whole property. The answer was yes.

AREAS OF DISCUSSION AND DISCERNMENT:

Carol requested that church council create a document (resolution) that the church could use when applying for a loan with a bank or other lending organization. The document must include the following:

1. Authorizing SUMC to apply for a loan
2. Stating who would be the signatories to execute the loan on behalf of the church

John Freshwater and Mel Guss would represent our church Trustees in the document.

Nancy Harris moved to have this document created authorizing SUMC to apply for a loan and stated that John Freshwater, Chairman of the Trustees and Mel Guss, Vice-Chairman of the Trustees be accepted by the church council as the signatories on the document. The members of the church council at this meeting reached consensus on this matter.

Marie was asked to write the document (resolution) and work with Carol to get the wording stated correctly.

Scott offered our closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Hurst,
Council Secretary