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Swansboro United Methodist Church  
Church Council  
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Members Present: Lois Craig, Paula Roberson, Pam Thompson, Merle Epperson, Bonnie Johnson, Jay Ahlquist, Ray Bihary, Bonnie Bihary, Carol Ferry, Lou Collins, Susan Fulp, Roger Fulp, David Wilmoth, Scott Dodson, Adele Hyla-Brewster, Jim Brewster, Terry Proper, Sandy Kellum, Mel Guss, Peter Gante, Bill Eubanks, Wes Bergazzi

Members Absent: Marcie Briley, John Freshwater, Pam Castellano, Angelo Sanchez

Lois opened by lighting the candle inviting Christ into our meeting with devotion and prayer.

**House Keeping** – Paula Roberson

-Minutes from October 25, 2016 were approved

-Handouts (Purchase Requisition/Check Request form, 2017 Budget)

**Celebrations/Successes included:**

Council appreciated the SUMC...By the Numbers Handout prepared by Jim Brewster which included MANY celebrations! We all agreed this is a wonderful way to communicate what is going on in our church. Directories are here-special thanks to Bonnie Johnson and Lynn Rouse/Christmas Cantata was fantastic this past Sunday – yay to Merle and all participants/100 Bibles have been given out in prison ministries with their Christmas banquet being held this month/SUMC awarded \$500 from a Duke Endowment Fund with a health and wellness emphasis for our church along with hunger in the community/4 work projects for flood relief in Kelly, NC ongoing/Stewardship Campaign finished with over \$600,000 in pledges

**Recognition of those rotating off Council include:**

Jay Ahlquist, Sandy Kellum, Ray Bihary, Bill Eubanks and Jim Brewster. THANK YOU!

**Financial Report** – Jay Ahlquist

Since the last meeting, we are tracking very well and look to be breaking even.

**Reimbursement Form** – Carol Ferry

As a way to track items ordered for the church, all Council members and their committees should be using this form (with Chairs signature). No longer should purchases be done personally but through the Administrative Assistant in the church office.

**Areas of Discernment**

**2017 Church Budget** – Jay Ahlquist

Due to our pledges not meeting our budgeting needs, we need to look beyond a budget based solely on pledges. It was agreed that quarterly reviews would need to take place for budget shortfalls. Giving will need to increase by roughly 14% (\$170,000) in order to break even. All budget requests were honored except Missions, and the

Council came to consensus to meet their original request of \$20,000 while approving the 2017 Budget.

**Joel Team Updates** – Pastor Scott

Areas which were targeted for improvements – Youth, Communications, and the Additional Worship Service – are well underway.

For the area of Making Disciples, Scott asked us to consider combining the Stewardship and Evangelism Committees into one Making Disciples Committee with the goal of connecting the congregation to missions. We need to pray for hurting people to find Jesus and for members to recognize their gifts and the call that God is placing on their heartstrings to serve. This larger combined committee would allow for new initiatives, for growth in church members, and for increased faithfulness. Council will discuss and consider this in January.

Scott closed us in prayer.

**NEXT SCHEDULED CHURCH COUNCIL WORKSHOP IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017  
From 9AM – 12PM in the Assembly Hall**