

SUMC Church Council Minutes
June 19, 2019
7:00pm

Present: Yana Frantz, Bonnie Bihary, John Freshwater, Merle Epperson, David Wilmoth, Sanders Hall, Adam Barth, Carol Ferry, Earl Frantz, Lou Collins, Marie Hurst

Yana opened the meeting by lighting the Christ Candle, reading a devotion from My Utmost for His Highest and leading in prayer.

Marie asked that everyone sign in and pick up a copy of the agenda and financial statement.

Celebrations:

- * 148 attended the concert this past Saturday, June 15. This was a great start to doing more good things for our kids and community
- * 60 kids plus adults making up our ASP Team are working in an area just north of Charleston WV for the week
- * Pastor Adam and Bonnie Bihary attended Annual Conference in Greenville NC
- * Pastor Kevin Baker coming in 2 weeks
- * New carpet in office areas in Building 1

Committee Reports/Updates:

Finance:

Carol Ferry reported that the gap is closing on our finances with unexpected items occurring. We are in a holding pattern as we look to what is ahead. We have to be frugal but meet the necessary needs of our church. At this point in the calendar year, we would be in the red if we were giving our apportionments. Church attendance has been a little bit down. The building teams that have been coming to work in our communities have all left a donation with us to help cover expenses. As of June 1, 2019, 20,870 households which are on the FEMA list in Onslow County are still in need of help. There are many more who did not qualify for FEMA who still need assistance.

Stewardship: David Wilmoth

David Wilmoth reported that the committee is working to promote our stewardship campaign for the fall. He is talking with the communication committee to assist with marketing. The campaign is based on Adam Hamilton's book. The sermon series ideas for November will reflect the campaign's theme. Pastor Kevin is on board with this program.

Communication

Sanders Hall reported that the website is still being worked on and they are waiting for Pastor Kevin's input.

Music:

Merle has no report at this time.

Worship:

Lou Collins shared that a July 9th meeting is planned with Pastor Kevin. The committee is working on getting figures for renovating the sacristy. Crystal Coast Brass did a great job of cleaning our items used for worship.

Trustees:

John Freshwater reported the following:

- * Building 1: the floor in the library needs leveling before the carpet can go down

- * Building 2: a frog got on the circuit board and fried it which disabled the AC. The circuit board has been fixed, but there is still a problem with a power surge. Duke Energy is coming to turn off the current and try performing some diagnostic test to see what works.
- * The compressor went out in the old unit and the breaker keeping throwing. Duke Energy will check all this out. We will be using Fellowship hall in Building 1 on Sunday, June 23
- * Sprinkler system work is still in progress.

- * Building 2: leak in sacristy, roof drain clogged causing backup
- * We need to put together a list of folks who are physically able to move/setup items when needed. We also need a process to get this done. Office would contact trustee member who would contact the labor pool coordinator who contacts the people to do the work using the Planning Center. The Trustee member would check the work once it is completed.

- * Parsonage: Trustee member John Lee is overseeing this work. We had hoped to have the parsonage ready for Pastor Kevin by July 15th but that date is no longer feasible.
- * Hurricane insurance claims have not been settled yet on contents. John F. is getting two local quotes for the work. The committee is reviewing our current insurance coverage.
- * We are having issues with the vegetation around the storm water management wetlands area on church grounds. This need is also being reviewed by the committee.
- * We have some volunteers who will be lining the parking lot. We need this done to help with the handicapped areas and those folks with special needs. Tom Shoal and Lynn Rouse will be working on this project.

SPRC:

Bonnie Bihary and Pastor Adam were representatives to the Annual Conference in Greenville, NC June 12-15. Her report is attached at the end of these minutes. She also reported that the committee is searching for a youth pastor.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Adam: shared that he and Roger Fulp will meet with the new confirmands to train them how to be an acolyte.

The youth are enjoying their summer. Adam has met with them and got lots of suggestions. He will meet with parents and pin down the activities for the Fall. Pastor Kevin is up to date with our youth program activities.

We are still need of a contemporary worship leader. We need to review the requirements for this position and then advertise. Austin Guthrie's wife's life celebration will be on Saturday in Building 3 due to the AC not working in Building 2,

Areas of Discussion and Discernment:

Yana addressed Bonnie's report:

Churches and Pastors are held accountable to the Book of Discipline. The resolutions shared in Bonnie's report are not set in stone, they are suggestions. They will be reviewed and voted on and the ones that make the cut of the Judiciary Council will become part of the Book of Discipline. These decisions will not be made until the Conference in 2020.

We don't know our reality yet. We don't need to assume. Shared facts from the Annual Conference Meeting will help guide our prayers and actions.

Pastor Adam: The Methodist Church has a process of managing the moving of pastors from one church to another and dealing with issues that come before the church.

We need to be **ONE CHURCH, ONE PEOPLE**, who is working to help our community come together for Christ. Pastor Kevin is a pastor of reconciliation who will guide us as we move forward.

When conflict comes into our midst, we must focus on God's word and guidelines for living the lives that would best honor our Lord and not the world. This is not an easy task at times but we must always remember, "Not my will but Thine be done."

Pastor Adam closed with prayer.
The meeting ended at 8:25pm

The next Church Council meeting will be on July 10th at 7pm in the choir room. Pastor Kevin will be in attendance. Pastor Kevin's email address is pastorkevin@swansboroumc.com

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Hurst
Secretary

Swansboro United Methodist Church
Annual Conference
June 12---15, 2019

Good morning, I am Bonnie S. Bihary, Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference. Thank you for sending me as your representative.

The theme for this year is: “Generosity in all People”.

We began all sessions with prayer. There was a memorial service honoring pastors and/or spouses who had passed in the past year; and holy communion on the first day, Wednesday. After that, it was down to business. The Laity and Clergy had separate sessions electing representatives and alternates to go to the General Conference to be held in 2020. There were the usual reports from different leadership committees. Voting for 2020 delegates was done in between reports.

Finance: 91.58% of apportionments were paid in 2018; the budget for 2021 was approved at \$16,205,448. A decrease of 23.13% from 2020 budget. Minimum salary for pastors is set at \$46,627. Salaries for District Superintendents is \$112,766, an increase of 1.56%. The Episcopal Residence (Bishop’s home) is to be sold, having been appraised at \$900,000+, money to be put in a trust to pay a housing allowance to the bishop. This is becoming a trend to do away with residences, rather we would pay a housing allowance.

For worship, Conference wide, attendance is down, but on-line viewing of worship is up. There were 71,276 people in church plus 11,992 on-line, on an average Sunday.

Citing rising gay teen suicides and other violence, a proposal was made to study how we can help the LGBTQIA+ community. They will report back to AC in 2020.

Ms. Harriet Jane Olson, CEO of the United Methodist Women, challenged all of to live as called, gifted and whole persons; not “just a lay person”. Look up your baptismal date and celebrate that day, like your birthday.

The 1602 delegates of our Conference, over the course of three days, elected 21 Laity Delegates and 21 Clergy Delegates for the General Conference to be held in 2020. Kevin Baker, our new pastor, was elected as Clergy Jurisdictional Delegate and his wife, Denise, was elected as a Laity Jurisdictional Alternate Delegate.

Now we will talk about the resolutions (suggestions) and what they mean to us, here in Swansboro. Resolutions are presented, voted on and if passed at Annual Conference, then they are presented at General Conference, voted on and if approved by a majority vote, then a change is made in our new 2020 Discipline.

There were 15 resolutions presented to AC. One failed, four were combined to make #15 then nine passed. This will make 92 changes to the Discipline if all are passed. Doubtful.

- 1) Energy efficiency in churches
- 2) Family of opioid Addict Anonymous
- 3) Diversification of Cultural Expressions at youth events
- 4) Serving of Fair trade coffee at United Methodist events
- 5) Care of creation
- 6) Full Communion with Episcopal Church
- 7) Combined in #15
- 8) Seeking an end to the torture of solitary confinement in prisons
- 9) Defeated
- 10) Combined in #15
- 11) Combined in #15
- 12) Combined in #15
- 13) Seeing our immigrant neighbors and the forces affecting them
- 14) The age of youth in the Methodist Church
- 15) Supporting full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons and rejecting the Traditional Plan

This is a direct quote from Resolution #15 **“Be it further resolved**, we urge local United Methodist congregations of the North Carolina Conference to ensure that LGBTQIA+ persons are welcomed and included in the membership and leadership positions of the local churches and to encourage members of the local congregations to be accountable for inclusion of ALL people, as stated in paragraph 214 of the Book of Discipline (2016);

More Conference information may be found on the internet. We have no idea what the scope of this means. Will we have to make all of our restrooms into unisex restrooms? If this is upsetting to you, please contact the Bishop; all of her information is here.

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Bonnie S. Bihary

Lay Delegate

Swansboro United Methodist Church