**SUMC CHURCH COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2021 7PM ZOOM MEETING**

Kevin Frazier, Vice-Chairman of the Church Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting, lit the Christ Candle and asked Reverend Rachel Moser to open the meeting in prayer.

Present: Kevin Frazier, Pastor Kevin Baker, Roger and Susan Fulp, David Wilmoth, Mel Brooks, Peter Gante, Marilyn Boyce, Cleve Folger, Tammy Taylor, Pastor Adam Barth, John McLean, Reverend Rachel Moser, Christy Denham, Lynn Rouse, Lisa Potts, Adele Brewster, Marie Hurst

**Celebrations**:

Adam and Alyssa are back with us. Reverend Moser is back working with us for a while. We are glad to have Christy with us in the financial office. Tammy will be going on a mission trip in March to Redbird, Kentucky-prayers for safety and opening hearts and minds to what God has to share.

**Committee Reports**:

**Board of Trustees** – No report.

**Child Care –** No report.

**Communications** – No report.

**Education Committee**: Susan shared that on March 7th the Sunday School for children will be starting up. We are anxious to see how many will come. UMKids had 12 last week, which is twice as many as usual. Our committee will be meeting on March 9th and will decide on whether or not we will have an Easter egg hunt on March 27th.

**Evangelism/Hospitality**: Tammy shared that the committee met during the first of this month and had a good meeting. The committee spoke with Pastor Kevin about some ideas for the future.

**Finance**: Peter Gante briefly reviewed the financial summaries for January. Church council members have copies of the financial summaries and a copy will be posted with these minutes in the secretary’s notebook.

The church budget is lower for 2021 than it was for last year. The surplus for January is $115,904.00.

In the childcare summary for January, the beginning balance is $37,638.90; that gives a monthly surplus of $16,70.53 with an ending balance of $54,340.45.

In the Statement of Income for January, the District is providing $3600.00 to the church for Rev. Moser’s salary. The finance committee increased the budget by $500.00 to help with mileage, if needed, which totals up to $4100.00. If we use the mileage money it will come out of the PPand P funds.

The finance committee asked for a vote of concensus to approve the budget. Church Council members voted by concensus to approve the budget.

**Lay Leaders**: Marilyn shared that the annual conference will be virtual. There are some district lay leadership trainings Roger will be participating in soon.

**Missions**: Lisa Potts shared that March 7-12 there will be a mission trip to Redbird, KY. The cost is $650.00 per participant. The initial payment for Pilgrimage has been paid for the June 27- July 3 event. They are planning on 25 people and need to get the word out to the youth. They have requested either Western VA or Western NC.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee**: John shared that the committee met on February 18th to move forward with the job search for the minister of music position. Pastor Adams’ recovery plan was shared with the committee.

**Stewardship**: David shared that the committee met on February 24th with their primary focus being the celebration of the church’s 150-year anniversary. They discussed opportunities for extra giving by the members. The committee will send out invitations for folks to make an extra gift(s) to honor or memorialize persons of their choosing which will help pay off the debt of Building 3.

**Congregational Care**: No report.

**Security**: Kevin Frazier shared that there were 97 people who attended the contemporary service last Sunday. This is the most we’ve had since the beginning of the pandemic.

**UMW**: Lynn shared that the circles are meeting virtually or not at all at this time. There are plans for outdoor picnics for small groups. The prayer and self-denial meeting in Building One had difficulties due to a poor connection with the church internet.

 There are plans to create a book library collection station for giveaways somewhere in town maybe on church property. We are looking for people willing to help contact older members who don’t have internet or people who have fallen through the cracks due to change over with website directory and the old paper directory.

We have paid our bills through the 1st quarter and the high school scholarship funds are in place. We are setting up training for “How to Hold Your Meeting,” which is the Traction Program with Dr. Layne Harpine.

**UMW**: No report.

**Stephen Ministry**: Cleve Folger shared that the Stephen Ministry is a Christian centered ministry which demonstrates Christ’s cares for all people.

According to God’s Word, we are to “Bear one another’s burdens and fulfill the law of Christ.”

Each person will go through 50 hours of extensive training of how to work with people in a caring way reflective of Christ. They will not try to fix things, but let God work in the lives of those who need help; whether life difficulties, relationships problems, health issues, military family conflicts, etc.

In the last 2 or 3 months, we have been working to move forward with this ministry and Pastor Kevin is getting ready to go through this training in March and finish in May. Mel Brooks and I will be commissioned on March 14th. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to be there to show their support.

Over the next 6 months, we will be interviewing and selecting folks who are feel led to become a Stephen Minister. We will be publicizing what the program is about using the media, bulletins, and explaining how people can get involved; educating them on how to deal with those life situations. We are working to cast a vision of how the Stephen Ministry blends with the overall mission of the church. We will reach out to educate people about the Stephen Ministry, asking for their help in whatever way they are called to serve.

The Stephen Ministry training is tentatively scheduled to take place on Monday nights, beginning September 15th for 16 weeks. There will also be 2 1/2-days of retreats.

Everything is highly confidential and reports will only go to Pastor Kevin. We are asking for your help to build, be supportive and pray for the program.

Mel Brooks shared that she is very excited to get the program going. Pastor Kevin says there are folks who have already shown some interest.

We are hoping to meet face to face in September but that will depend on how things are going with COVID-19.

This is a one-on-one ministry so ZOOM would not be the best way to work.

Lynn asked if there are any Stephen Ministers currently on hand who could work with some of our folks who have already lost loved ones or others who are in need of support. Unfortunately, no Stephen Minister Care Receivers are available at this time.

We want the program to be sustainable; therefore, we need to lay a strong foundation for the program. We will keep the pastoral staff abreast of how things are going.

**Pastors’ Reports**

Pastor Kevin’s report was emailed to all church council members. He shared some of the highlights from that report about the 150-year celebration. On March 1st 1871 some folks got together and constituted what later became Swansboro United Methodist Church. This celebration could be an opportunity to help pay off our debt on Building 3 of $1.57 million dollars.

Evangelism and Hospitality are putting together some ideas to have some kind of event once a month and roll those out as we go through summer and fall. The first event is a magic show “***EXPERIENCE the IMPOSSIBLE.***” On March 12th, there will be a 3pm show for our child care center and at 7pm a ticketed event to be held in Building 3. Look for the information in the ***SCOOP*** ***& LINKS*** and on the website. Another event may be a classical guitar virtual event! Lots to look forward to.

Pastor Kevin would also like to seek out people who might want to speak about how the church has impacted their life. A 2–4-minute sharing time. The mayor of Swansboro may also share a statement regarding our church and its impact on the community. Other ideas to be shared later.

For now, we plan to keep the worship schedule the same through Easter and then reevaluate as needed.

The internet at church has been having some issues. The Internet Technology tech came out and worked on the problems occurring in Building 1. The problems have been corrected.

As of today, the General Conference will be postponed until August, 2022.

Reverend Moser shared that she is happy to be back at home at SUMC.

Pastor Adam said it was good to have Reverend Moser with us. She is Pastor Adam’s mentor.

He shared that it is good to be back. He appreciates the many prayers and support that he and his family have been given. He remarked that the folks in his support group remarked about how much support, letters etc. he received from his church family.

Pastor Adam will be taking the lead with the Oasis service. He wants to give the service a bit of a segmented feel; writing scripts where human beings interact with the puppets in their skits. He will also be working with Layne and Susan about how the Oasis service can support the goals for the Sunday School kids.

He will also be working with the Discipleship Program, planning programs on how someone can grow in their faith from birth to death. Pastor Adam believes that his passion for serving God and the church community at SUMC have and will help him move forward in his life. He is glad to be back and his door is always open. His office hours are 9am to 4pm Monday – Thursday.

**Areas of Discussion**:

Kevin asked if there was anything else to be shared. Hearing no response, he asked Pastor Kevin to close in prayer. The meeting ended at 8:06pm.

The next church council ZOOM meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday, March 24th.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Hurst

Secretary