

**First United Methodist Church -Orange, Texas**  
**Meeting of Church Council**  
**May 18 2017**

Attendants: John Warren, Sherri Fruge', Chris Abshire, Carol Allen (conference call), Gary Bonneaux, , Barbara Dardeau, Janice Gresham, Ginger Williams, Jonathan Vogt, Members Absent: Jim Armstrong, David Bridges, Greg Defrates, Betty Merchant. Guest attendants: Doug Rogers and Jim Brown.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by John Warren and a prayer was held. It was noted that a quorum may not be available for a vote. John Warren served as Chairperson of the meeting in Jim Armstrong's absence.

Doug Rogers reviewed requirements for the traditional worship service and mentioned that other churches, particularly in Beaumont, hire singers to complete the requirements of the choir. Doug indicated that the choir was primarily needing male singers and noted that the females in the choir are strong. Doug requested that the Council consider \$100 per week to allow for 3 hires which will total approximately \$5,000 per year.

Jim Brown spoke to the Council next and indicated that he wanted to be available to answer questions that may have come up in the April council meeting. He provided an update of the recommendations noted in the meeting and indicated that it was now clear that Council must be approached for unbudgeted items that exceed \$1,000. Items below \$1,000 can be authorized by John Warren.

The closed session of the Church Council began at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was not available for action items as Carol Allen was not able to continue the conference call due to family matters. Additional discussions were held relating to the hiring of musicians and funding sources.

Chris Abshire presented high points of the financial information that was presented to the Council in advance of the meeting. There were no further questions.

A proposal presented in writing by Kenneth Hillsten was discussed. It related to \$900+ in contributions in memory of his daughter, Denise Taylor, to be designated for use in the Bereavement and Myra McDonald accounts. Further discussions were held relating to designated funds and it was agreed that a task force should be established to put together a flyer on how to designate funds and to consider involving the VCI Communications Team.

Jonathan Vogt updated the Council that job descriptions are being reviewed and updated by the SPR team.

Chris Abshire mentioned to the Council that policies should be established to require individuals that charge on credit cards for designated funds to turn in receipts within a reasonable time to allow proper accounting. The Council discussed and agreed.

John Warren presented an update of the VCI teams and mentioned that a team has been developed to review the Malloy Center requirements, rates and to establish a brochure to increase utilization. John also mentioned that the Church signs were in progress and installation would begin within the upcoming weeks. It was also noted that Marilyn Wadkins would be visiting the first weekend in June to meet with the VCI teams, independently.

Other matters brought for discussion by John Warren were 1) a new Men's group with a planning meeting to held the following week 2) an update on Back to School Orange (toiletries to be supplied by FUMC Orange) and a fund raiser to be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3) May 28<sup>th</sup> 100 member children's choir from College Station for a joint service to be held at 11:00 a.m. and 4) a 7 ½ octave Bell Choir to be provided in conjunction with St. Paul's Episcopal Church to perform a concert in the Family Life Center on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.