

**First United Methodist Church -Orange, Texas**  
**Meeting of Church Council**  
**June 15 2017**

Attendants: John Warren, Sherri Fruge', Chris Abshire, Carol Allen, Gary Bonneaux, Barbara Dardeau, Betty Merchant, Ginger Williams, Jonathan Vogt, Members Absent: Jim Armstrong, David Bridges, Greg Defrates, Janice Gresham. Guest attendants: Ron Hopperton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by John Warren and a devotional and prayer were held. John Warren served as Chairperson of the meeting in Jim Armstrong's absence.

Ron Hopperton spoke first and stated that he was attending the council meeting on the advisement of Marilyn Wadkins, the VCI coach, as a result of a meeting of the Discipleship VCI team. Ron inquired about the limited attendance at the Council meetings and it was noted that the Guiding Principles provide that the meetings are closed and town hall meetings and published minutes (available on the web site) are provided to update the congregation and obtain participation. The Council indicated that Mr. Hopperton was welcome to sit in the meeting up to the review by the SPRC lead, Jonathan Vogt.

Chris Abshire presented high points of the financial information that was presented to the Council in advance of the meeting and noted the finances are on target with the budget so far this year. Chris called to the attention of the Council the high maintenance costs of the AC units and discussions were held relating to AC issues and the water bill associated with the cooling tower. John Warren mentioned that Brown Claybar had been assisting with approaching the City about the need for a separate meter for the water tower to alleviate the unnecessary sewer charges associated with the water use for the AC units. It was noted that work will continue in this area to reduce the costs of water.

John Warren presented an update of the VCI teams and noted progress in the areas of the Malloy Center, church signs, proposed utilization of the Family Life Center by Lamar University for a study area and the formation of a new men's group. John continued the VCI review by impressing upon the Council that priorities would need to be established as a result of recommendations by the various VCI teams, particularly related to financial requirements. It was discussed that the Council members must be closer to the VCI teams to establish goals and to prioritize. John also mentioned that the next town hall meeting would be held at the end of July and continued commitment to the VCI process will be reinforced.

Discussions were held as an update from the last meeting regarding paid singers for the choir in the traditional service. A motion was made by Sherri Fruge' and seconded by Barbara Dardeau that \$5,000 per year be provided for Doug Rogers to use to hire singers for the traditional service. Discussions were held regarding funding this expense, utilization required primarily for male singers and also regarding consideration of a designated time frame for review. The motion carried as stated with one dissent by Jonathan Vogt.

John Warren mentioned that Jim Armstrong would no longer be a member of the Council due to his job relocation and that the Nominations Committee would vote on a new person for the Council. John indicated that this would move forward quickly and a new Chairperson would also be proposed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. after a review by Jonathan Vogt of the SPRC Task Team.