

First United Methodist Church -Orange, Texas
Meeting of Church Council
July 20 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by John Warren and a devotional and prayer were held. John Warren served as Chairperson of the meeting.

Jim Brown updated the council on the work of the Worship Excellence VCI Team. Specific discussions were held regarding leadership requirements for the praise service and the previous concept of a blend advisor. It was agreed that leadership for this service requires review since it is currently led by strictly volunteers. It was agreed that this topic should be a priority. Lengthy discussions were held relating to a move of the praise and worship service held at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays from the Family Life Center to the Sanctuary. The Council was very interested in this and saw this as an effort to strengthen and unify the congregation. Others mentioned that the worship experience would be enhanced by being held in the beautiful Sanctuary. The Council requested that Jim Brown conduct further review to determine what renovations and associated costs may be necessary to accommodate the praise service and enhance all services held in the Sanctuary.

John Warren mentioned that the nominations committee would be meeting the week of July 24th to discuss the addition of a new Council member as well as other task team members. Jonathan Vogt indicated that the Guiding Principles should be used as a guideline for this process.

Ginger Williams updated the Council on work of the VCI Communications team. She presented a copy of a News Release Form that will provided as a manner in which members of the congregation can request news to be published in various venues. This will be presented at the Town Hall meeting to be held on Sunday, July 30th.

The Financial report was presented by Greg Defrates and he mentioned that revenues are exceeding expenses by approximately \$50,000 year to date as of June 30, 2017. Most of this excess was carryover from last year. Greg mentioned that several line items of expenses are being reviewed in detail and he also covered various fund balances that would be cleaned up in the near future.

John Warren led the review of the VCI teams and it was noted that the signs were nearing completion and work is underway to review the Malloy Center for improvements and better utilization. Sherri Fruge updated the Council on fees for use of the various facilities as well as rules for facility and kitchen use. John Warren mentioned that a recent survey of those that utilize the Malloy Center was conducted and most comments related to the lights and air conditioning. It was noted that the lights were replaced in the past month.

A motion was made by David Bridges and seconded by Greg Defrates that the rules presented and amended for use of the facilities and kitchen be published immediately as an interim step until further review can be conducted. The motion passed unanimously. David Bridges agreed to lead a team with Sherri Fruge and Gary Bonneaux to further review and refine the facility rules and fees.

Discussions were held regarding the Town Hall meeting to be held on Sunday, July 30th and John Warren mentioned that those responsible for presentations in the PowerPoint would need to provide their information as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40p.m.