

**First United Methodist Church of Orange**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**Meeting of January 21, 2018**

Attendants: John Warren, Sherri Fruge', Chris Abshire, Carol Allen, Barbara Dardeau, Greg Defrates, Tom Henry, Suzanne, Magee, Betty Merchant, Ginger Williams. Absent: Gary Bonneaux, Theresa Beauchamp, David Bridges.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. and John Warren led the devotional and prayer.

Discussions were held regarding the position of Chairperson for the Council and the requirement for the upcoming year. Carol Allen indicated that she would agree to serve as Chairperson for the year. Upon motion by Sherri Fruge' and second by Betty Merchant, it was unanimously approved that Carol Allen would be the Chairperson for the year 2018.

Greg Defrates and Chris Abshire presented a recap of the financial report for December and stated that the year ended with a surplus of \$43,620. They also reviewed the Trustees fund and noted a year-end balance of \$1.9 million as compared to a beginning balance for the year of \$1.66 million. Next, the budget for the upcoming year was presented and it was noted that the budget would be revised at such time that pledges were finalized and certain expenses would be reviewed. The budget is proposed at a deficit of \$9,337 with income projected at \$472,827 and expenses of \$482,164. A motion to approve the budget as presented and noting that revisions would be forthcoming was made by Sherri Fruge' and seconded by Ginger Williams. The motion carried with a unanimous approval.

Chris Abshire informed the Council that funds of \$12,950 remained in the Spiritual Journey Fund for the building debt which has now been paid. Upon a motion by Greg Defrates and a second by Chris Abshire, it was unanimously approved that the money would be transferred into the general fund with general maintenance of the buildings designated as the first use of these funds.

Greg Defrates next reviewed information related to insurance for full time staff members, Norma Bergeron and Randall Bridges. Discussions were held and Mr. Defrates agreed to obtain additional information to make a decision at a future meeting.

Chris Abshire noted that funds being utilized to pay temporary chancel choir members are exhausted and funds are available in the music fundraiser fund for the upcoming year for this purpose. Chris Abshire made a motion and a second by Barbara Dardeau to transfer funds from the Music Fundraiser Fund to the Music Ministry Balance to pay for the temporary chancel choir members for the upcoming year. The vote passed with a unanimous approval.

Facility Rental Rates were reviewed and discussions were held regarding the need to increase the fees for the upcoming year. It was discussed and agreed that a separate contract and fees should be utilized for weddings. Sherri Fruge' made a motion and a second by Greg Debrates to approve the facility rental rates with a change to indicate a time frame of 6 hours or less for the rooms and the addition of the Welcome Center to the Parlor rates. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote and the facility rates are attached as an addendum to these minutes.

The next area of discussion was the Emmaus contract which is requiring a renewal and the contract to be developed with the Acts Group which is sponsored by the Catholic Church. The contract rates were compared with a similar group and it was agreed that an increase in the rates were in order. Upon a motion by Barbara Dardeau and a second by Tom Henry, it was unanimously approved to charge a rate of \$3,300 for use of the facilities in accordance with the contract with Emmaus and the proposed contract for the Acts retreats.

John Warren mentioned that Marilyn Wadkins would be back at the end of February to meet with the VCI teams and John stated that he would push for all teams to meet prior to her meetings for planning.

Next the Council discussed timing for upcoming town hall meetings and it was agreed that these meetings would be held on the fifth Sunday for months that have a fifth Sunday. It was also noted that the Bishop would be attending worship and a luncheon with our congregation on March 18<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Greshams.

Discussions were held on the need for a fundraiser and involvement of the Emmaus community. John mentioned that it was a goal to have quarterly groups in the Chapel to present concerts for fund raising. It was also noted that an event would be held on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to have jazz music, king cake and other refreshments for a meet and greet with the Mardi Gras royalty of Orange. Sherri Fruge' updated the Council on plans for this event.

The Council next went into closed session for a SPR meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.