

**First United Methodist Church of Orange**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**Meeting of October 19, 2017**

Attendants: John Warren, Sherri Fruge', Chris Abshire, David Bridges, Barbara Dardeau, Greg Defrates, Janice Gresham, Betty Merchant, Jonathan Vogt. Absent: Carol Allen, Gary Bonneaux, Ginger Williams. Guests: James Brown, Norma Bergeron, Doug Rogers

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. and John Warren led the devotional and prayer.

The meeting began with a presentation by Doug Rogers with a program to increase attendance at the Church entitled Duplicate in Two Zero One Eight. The program encourages each member to invite others into the Church in a manner that would target doubling the attendance in 2018. Doug reviewed additional topics that are under consideration by the Church Council to include updating the Sanctuary, relocating the Praise & Worship service into the Sanctuary. Doug mentioned his concerns about maintaining the aesthetic qualities of the building and the financial requirements to make changes required for the Praise and Worship service. Doug also brought maintenance requirements of the facilities and staff issues to the attention of the Council.

Norma Bergeron spoke to the Council about staff duties, maintenance requirements and day to day requirements as well as other matters for consideration by the Staff and Parish Relations team members. Discussions were held about the buildings and grounds committee and the need to strengthen this committee and involve them in requirements of the Church.

Greg Defrates presented a recap of the financial report from August and stated that the September financial report would be provided following the meeting for review. He noted that income through August exceeded expenses by \$44K. David Bridges noted that approximately \$60K of expenses were paid from the Trustee funds as they related to the buildings. John Warren updated the Council on information he had from September and mentioned that expenses exceeded income by approximately \$2,000. John also mentioned that the Church was receiving donations from individuals that are utilizing the Malloy Spiritual Enrichment Center to assist victims of Hurricane Harvey. It was also discussed that funds were received from New Beginnings Day Care for use of the Education Building. Mr. Defrates also mentioned that work on the budget is underway and a special called Council Meeting may be required to review and approve the budget which must be completed by November 6, 2017.

The Council reviewed changes to the Guiding Principles that were discussed in the last Council meeting and a draft that was distributed by Greg Defrates. Discussions were held related to the draft and the Council agreed to review a revised draft and vote by email.

Discussions were held regarding the addition of a new council member. John Warren mentioned that the position had not yet been accepted. The Council reviewed the requirements of the Guiding

Principles relating to Council Members and John Warren mentioned that he had requested that Randall Bridges attend the meetings. It was agreed that the Nominations Committee must present a new council member for consideration and vote by the Council, per the Guiding Principles.

Sherri Fruge' presented a brief update of the VCI process and mentioned that a group meeting had been held with Marilyn Wadkins. Jim Brown was available to answer questions on an update by the Worship Excellence Team that was presented in advance to the Council members. Discussions were held about the need for an Architect to review requirements for the Sanctuary and the possibility of moving the Praise and Worship service to the Sanctuary.

Plans were discussed for the Town Hall meeting to be held on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> for a joint worship service at 10:15 a.m. followed by the meeting and a "pot luck" lunch. The Council agreed to topics of discussion for the meeting which include 1) services times, 2) places for each service and funding opportunities, 3) budget preview, 4) Open Council meetings, and 5) Communication.

John Warren mentioned that the Charge Conference would be held at our Church on November 12, 2017.

John Warren updated the Council on work related to Hurricane Harvey and stated that he and Randall were contacting Church members that have been impacted. John mentioned that the district was providing Queen and twin mattresses to those members that are without flood insurance.

The Council moved into closed session for discussions led by Jonathan Vogt of the Staff and Parish Relations team.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.