

First United Methodist Church of Orange
Church Council Minutes
Meeting of November 16, 2017

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

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

Greg Defrates presented a recap of the financial report from September and noted that income was \$34,822 and expenses were \$34,754.15 leaving a net income of \$67.91. It was noted that the financial statements had not yet been distributed to the Council due to the early date of the meeting; however, income for the month of October was increased over September. Mr. Defrates updated the members on the pledges for the year and that pledge income was at 77% YTD and should be 83% based upon an even distribution of the year to date budget. Non pledged funds are increased and are at 93% of the total budget. Total income is at 84% of the total budget. Discussions were held regarding the contributions from Churches, organizations and others that are using the Malloy Spiritual Enrichment Center to assist with the cost of utilities and maintenance of the building. John Warren mentioned that a change was made for garbage pickup which will result in a savings and other areas are under review.

As part of the continued discussion of finances, discussions were held regarding the District apportionments and Mr. Defrates mentioned that apportionments were reduced as approved by the District for Churches in areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Discussions were held regarding the designations of the various apportionments, the calculations of the apportionments by the District and plans in the budget to continue a reduction in the apportionments for the upcoming year. Mr. Defrates mentioned that a Plan of Action should be written to get back to full apportionments. The Council also discussed reduced average attendance for this year compared to the previous year, insurance and options for staff and the budget for the upcoming year.

The Stewardship campaign was discussed next and John Warren mentioned that stewardship cards would be going out in the upcoming week. Various options for presenting stewardship to the congregation were discussed.

Election of a Chairperson was next on the agenda and general discussions were held. The members agreed that it would be best to have the Council members for 2018 vote on a Chairperson. The Council members for the upcoming year were reviewed and are attached as an addendum to the minutes. The members discussed the recent changes to the Guiding Principles. It was noted that an additional change to the Guiding Principles was needed to change the required attendance and total vote from a quorum of 9 members to a quorum of 7 members. Sherri Fruge' agreed to present wording for this change for a vote by the Council.

The next item on the agenda was Security Plan discussion and the members discussed recent national issues causing concern and a task force was designated to review the issue. Additional discussions were held relating to a plan for security for FUMC Orange. The Council members agreed that a task force should be formed to review and Gary Bonneaux, Jonathan Vogt and Greg Defrates agreed to serve on this team.

Sherri Fruge', Ginger Williams and John Warren updated the Council on the VCI program. John updated the Council on recent and planned utilization of the Malloy Center. He also stated that there were requests for utilization of the building by a local organization for retreats (Catholic Diocese ACTS) that would be similar to the use by Emmaus. Discussion was held regarding fees for use of the building for this new purpose as well as the upcoming renewal of agreement for use by Emmaus. It was determined that fees should be revisited based upon a presentation made earlier in the year.

Discussions of the VCI update continued and the topic of an architect to review requirements in the Sanctuary was discussed. Ginger Williams mentioned that Julie Williams, her daughter that is an architect in Austin, had approval by firm to conduct this project for the Church. The scope of the project was discussed and upon motion by Greg Defrates, seconded by Jonathan Vogt and unanimously approved, it was agreed to pay \$1,500 for 3D drawings and information on options to be considered to be considered for changes to the Sanctuary.

The next item of discussion was by John Warren who mentioned that a recognition ceremony would be held in honor of Pete and Janice Gresham and a note burning ceremony. A date was discussed for the Spring, 2018 as well as electing a committee to plan which Barbara Dardeau agreed to assist.

Task teams were the next area of discussion and John Warren mentioned that task teams were being reviewed for the upcoming year.

The Council next went into closed session for SPR matters and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.