

First United Methodist Church of Orange
Church Council Minutes
Meeting of March 22, 2018

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

Carol Allen opened the meeting and John Warren began the meeting with a prayer and devotional.

Chris Abshire presented the financial report and mentioned that pledges were 17% of the annual budget and were on target and nonpledged contributions are above target and related to contributions by groups staying at the Malloy Center. Chris continued by stating that no accounts have exceeded the budget to date. He also reminded the Council that there were carryover of funds from the prior year of approximately \$43,000. John Warren mentioned that a contract had been signed with the organization from the Catholic church for use of the Malloy Center which had been approved in a prior meeting.

David Bridges updated the Council on the Trustee Fund and stated that \$429,919 of those funds are undesignated funds. He stated that roof repairs of approximately \$3,200 were conducted this past month and gutters will be added in the upcoming month. Income from the Slade Foundation will also be used to assist with routine maintenance as discussed in a prior meeting. David also mentioned that four graduating seniors have applied for scholarships and a vote will be included on the agenda for the April meeting.

John Warren updated the Council on the Sanctuary project and it was noted that presentations were held over three Sundays for the congregation. John stated that a task team should be formed to get bids for work that is planned, determine what we can afford and to finalize the dollar amount and proposal to bring before the congregation for review. A motion was made by Greg Defrates with a second by Gary Bonneaux to recruit a task team to review proposals to be presented to the congregation for the sanctuary renovations. The motion passed unanimously. Greg Defrates agreed to lead the process to recruit a task team to be presented to the Council at the next meeting for a vote in order for the task team to be presented at the upcoming Town Hall meeting in April.

John Warren updated the Council on the VCI program and stated that one team is working on a review of all Church programs to facilitate the Vision of the Church. This is one of the final prescriptions to be completed for the formal VCI program in the Fall, 2016. Sherri Fruge' updated the Council on recent meetings of the Vision team and the short term and long term goals to be monitored. John mentioned that Marilyn Wadkins, the VCI coach, would be in Orange for meetings the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

John Warren presented a program that would allow the Church to reach out to the community in a meaningful way which is also a VCI prescription. This program would be to reach out to children in the summer and provide a “meals on wheels” program for students in North Orange Early Learning Center. John stated that he had met with Julie Allensworth, a member of our Church and school counselor of this center, and she has agreed to present 30-40 children who have a need. The plan is for sandwiches to be made daily by volunteers made up of our church members and mission groups staying in the Malloy Center. The sandwiches will be delivered Monday through Thursday and the program will be for approximately 35 days from June to approximately August 2nd. John stated that he would be applying for a grant to assist with the costs and that there are designated funds available within our Church. John also stated that he had spoken with another church in a congregation of our size that was mainly retired and this program served to grow their church. This Church experienced such growth in the program that they now have 4 other church groups that help serve. John mentioned that the “plus” for FUMC Orange is that we have helpers that come into the Malloy Center with individuals that are looking for other ways to help. Upon motion by Betty Merchant and a second by Sherri Fruge’, it was unanimously approved to allow John Warren to move forward with the summer program to provide sandwiches to be delivered to the homes of students from North Orange Early Learning Center and utilize designated funds available in the Stop World Hunger fund of approximately \$1,800 and the Change the World Fund of approximately \$300.

An update of the Malloy Center was provided by John Warren and discussions were held for the ice machine which is in need of replacement. A proposal for replacement of a unit of the same size as the previous unit was provided by email and the Council discussed that the size and dollar amount should be reviewed. The Council agreed that alternatives would be reviewed; however, the ice machine was required for the Malloy Center. It was noted that a bin had been generously donated. Upon a motion by David Bridges and seconded by Greg Defrates, it was unanimously approved to purchase an ice machine to be paid for out of the Trustees fund.

The next item on the agenda was the upcoming Town Hall meeting which will be held on the fifth Sunday in April, the 29th. John Warren mentioned that the meeting would be held immediately following the 11:00 traditional service and that both services would be held that Sunday due to the combined services held on March 18th. The Council agreed that the topics for the Town Hall meeting would be 1) Presentation by the VCI program review team led by Angela Abshire and a Low Key questionnaire, 2) Present the task team approved by the Council for the Sanctuary Project and 3) Present the plans for the Summer program to provide sandwiches to children.

The Council next met in closed session for SPR matters.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.