

First United Methodist Church -Orange, Texas
Meeting of Church Council
January 9, 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by John Warren and a prayer and devotional was held.

The financial report was presented by Greg Defrates and it was reported that income for the year 2016 was \$563,846 and expenses were \$519,654 resulting in an excess income for the year of \$44,192. It was also reported that income from individuals with pledges for the year was higher by \$20,000, income from non-pledge donors was lower by \$10,000 and income from the Church offering plate was lower by \$1,000 as compared to the budget for the year. Mr. Defrates continued with an update on pledges for the year 2017 and stated that 63 units had pledged a total of \$280,000 to date. Of these 63 units, 38 units increased their pledge (total increase of \$30,000), 15 units pledged the same and 7 reduced their pledge (total reduction of \$7,000). There are 27 units that pledged last year and have not pledged this year. Total pledges for 2016 were \$368,690 and the total received was \$389,986.

The election of a Chairperson for the upcoming year was the next topic of review. David Bridges nominated Jim Armstrong for Chairperson and it was discussed that Mr. Armstrong would need to be contacted to determine whether he is able to serve before the Council takes a vote. It was noted that Jim Armstrong indicated that he would be unable to attend the first meeting due to a conflict. John Warren agreed to contact Jim Armstrong and get back with the Council for a vote.

A motion was made by Jonathan Vogt and seconded by John Warren to establish three task teams to include the Finance Team, Staff Parish Relations Team and Trustees Team. The motion included that each task team would perform the duties of the Church Council as outlined in the Book of Discipline and each team would be sponsored by the Council member with the greatest seniority on the legacy committees. Discussions were held, a vote was conducted and the motion was unanimously approved. Discussions continued regarding the individuals that would serve as sponsors due to the level of seniority and it was determined that Greg Defrates would serve as the lead for the Finance Team, Jonathan Vogt would serve as the lead for the Staff Parish Relations Team and David Bridges would serve as the lead for the Trustees Team.

Discussions were next held regarding the purpose of the various task and missions teams and how they report back through the Church Council. A review was held of various options for mission teams and a consensus was to have a more thorough review of the options for mission teams at the next meeting of the Council. A Motion was made by Greg Defrates and seconded by David Bridges to establish a Worship Mission Team to be mentored by the Church Staff under the direct oversight of the Senior Pastor. The motion was unanimously approved.

A review of correspondence from David Bridges to Norma Bergeron was held related to Memorial contributions and how they are handled. Greg Defrates agreed to review this issue and propose a resolution to the Council at a future date. Additional discussions were held relating to facility maintenance with the change in personnel and David Bridges agreed to review the requirements and bring recommendations to the Council.

John Warren informed the Council that the loan at First Financial Bank related to the mortgage on the building was paid in full by the Gresham family. The Council members expressed their appreciation to Janice Gresham, who is a member of the Council. It was discussed that the Gresham's have requested that the education building be named in their honor and that the side of the building be sealed and painted in a manner that matches the front. A Motion was made by David Bridges and seconded by Betty Merchant to approve 1) Naming of the education building in honor of the Gresham family, 2) seal and paint the education building to match the paint on the Church and 3) seal and paint the

front of the Chapel to match the paint on the Church. Upon further discussion of funding for the various requirements and the memorial funds available, the vote was held and the motion was unanimously approved.

Lengthy discussions were held regarding the names of the buildings and requirements and history relating to this topic. A motion was made by Carol Allen and seconded by Barbara Dardeau to change the name of the Praise Center to the Family Life Center. The vote was held and was approved with a majority (1 opposed).

Keys to the buildings and security of the buildings were the next topic of discussion. A motion was made by Jonathan Vogt and seconded by Betty Merchant to establish a key policy that would be managed by Norma Bergeron and include keys for designated paid and unpaid staff members (as defined by the Senior Pastor) and a system to allow "check out" of keys, as designated in the policy. The motion was unanimously approved.

Betty Merchant updated the Council of the status of the VCI committee that is exploring options for signs for the buildings. An initial estimate of cost is in the range of \$50,000 and additional proposals are being considered. It was requested by the Council that the proposals be presented in an itemized bid with a paper rendering of the signs. David Bridges also mentioned that the Committee should verify requirements of the Historical Society. Mrs. Merchant also updated the Council of discussions that were held relating to the need for greeters in the Welcome Center and oversight of coffee and snacks on Sunday mornings. John Warren agreed to explore options for this need.

The Council discussed meeting dates and times for upcoming meetings and a motion was made and seconded to conduct the Council meetings monthly on the second Thursday. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Discussions were also held regarding the distribution of an agenda and materials relating to future Council meetings by the Chairperson and/or Secretary a week in advance of the meetings.

Additional topics were discussed to include an inquiry into the Trudy Blair estate (the Trustee Task Team to review and update), a backup plan for Norma Bergeron (Jonathan Vogt to review and update), closure and reopening of 6th Street (to reopen when construction is complete), VCI updates, a fundraising event with John Michael Talbot as the entertainer (John Warren to review and update) and Guiding Principles (previously approved by the Church Council and District Superintendent) to be provided to the new Church Council by John Warren for review.

Final discussions were held relating to the closed Church Council meetings and the plans for town hall meetings to be held quarterly and other forms of communication (newsletters, etc.) to keep the Church members informed. The new Church website is under development according to updates by John Warren and Ginger Williams and will also be utilized for information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.