

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

Attendants: John Warren, Jim Armstrong, Sherri Fruge', David Bridges, Greg Defrates, Janice Gresham, Ginger Williams, Carol Allen, Jonathan Vogt, Members Absent: Chris Abshire, Gary Bonneau, Barbara Dardeau, Betty Merchant. Visitor Present prior to business meeting – Ron Hopperton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by John Warren and a prayer and devotional were held.

Ron Hopperton spoke to the Council about his concerns relating to the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. Mr. Hopperton mentioned that the prayer ministry was not active at the present time and discussions were held regarding recent changes that have been made to obtain and forward prayers requests. Mr. Hopperton also informed the Council of his intent to transition leadership of this group to a new leader. The Council agreed that this ministry was important and further review and consideration would be devoted to the issues and to the transition of leadership.

The closed business meeting session followed and a motion was made by David Bridges and seconded by Jonathan Vogt to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting of the Church Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next item on the agenda was to elect a Chairperson for the upcoming year. A motion was made by Jonathan Vogt, seconded by Greg Defrates and unanimously approved to elect Jim Armstrong as the Chairperson. The Council thanked Jim Armstrong for agreeing to serve the Council in this capacity.

A summary financial report was presented by Greg Defrates who noted that there was approximately \$180,000 in operating funds and \$50,000 in designated funds on the Balance Sheet at the end of January. He also stated that January receipts were \$121,274 and included a transfer balance of \$41,796 and pre-pledged receipts. Mr. Defrates informed the group that pledges for 2017 now total \$319,000 versus the budget of \$351,000. Because the pledges are not yet final, the group agreed to review at the end of the first quarter. Discussions were held that the meeting was scheduled too early to present full financial reports for the month of January. The group agreed that the review of financial data should be a part of the monthly Council meetings and that the meetings should be scheduled to allow the presentation of the previous month's financial report. Upon a motion by Greg Defrates, a second by Sherri Fruge' and a unanimous approval, it was resolved to schedule the monthly Council meetings for the third Thursday of each month.

Ginger Williams led discussions about preparation of the monthly newsletter. The Council agreed that John Warren could oversee efforts for preparation of the monthly newsletter and no action was required by the Church Council.

Discussions were held regarding Mission Teams and included the Intercessory Prayer Ministry and the Feed My Sheep ministry and it was agreed that no action was required by the Council as of this date. The group agreed that the Guiding Principles should be followed in forming Missions Teams and a mentor and champion would be involved to assist with these efforts.

John Warren updated the group on the Vibrant Church Initiative (VCI) and stated that most of the VCI mission teams had a meeting with Marilyn Wadkins the weekend of February 4<sup>th</sup>. A bullet point update was provided on the status of the various VCI teams and included the progress of the new website and the status of signs being reviewed by the Hospitality Team.

David Bridges updated the group on buildings and grounds and the status of the work on the buildings. He also updated the group on the status of the Trudy Blair estate and said that an attorney was assisting with the matter. Mr. Bridges

also mentioned that a review of wedding policies was in order to ensure that the Church is recovering costs associated with use of the facilities. A review of the status of the construction and closure of 6<sup>th</sup> Street was also mentioned by Mr. Bridges and that the project was delayed and now in a penalty phase which should escalate completion of the project.

Discussions were held regarding communication that is required due to the closed door sessions of the Church Council. The group discussed the process that must be observed for scheduling visitors and speakers at the Council meeting. The Discipline was indicated as a reference to be reviewed for this process.

The Town Hall meetings are required each quarter and the group reviewed the manner and timing of the upcoming meetings and agreed that the first meeting should be held at the end of the first quarter.

Greg Defrates informed the group that a proposal for handling memorial contributions will be made at the following meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.