

**First United Methodist Church -Orange, Texas**  
**Meeting of Church Council**  
**March 23 2017**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by John Warren and a prayer and devotional were held.

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the two previous meetings and a motion was made by Jonathan Vogt and seconded by Greg Defrates to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2017 and February 19, 2017 meetings of the Church Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

The financial report was presented by Greg Defrates who noted that the total receipts for the month of February were \$49,087 and total disbursements were \$46,972 with a surplus of approximately \$2,000. The year to date surplus is approximately \$85,000. Mr. Defrates reviewed the pledges for 2017 and stated that the pledges total approximately \$355,000 as compared to the budget of \$351,289. In reviewing the Malloy Center, Mr. Defrates mentioned that receipts are expected to reach 40% of the budgeted amount for the year by the end of March. Discussions were held regarding utility requirements for the buildings and Mr. Defrates agreed to review and make a proposal for a solution to reduce costs at a future meeting. A review of the Trustees fund was held and it was noted that the balance was \$369,173 as of February 28, 2017 and is projected to increase by approximately \$77,000 due to the income from the Blair estate. Mr. Bridges also noted that receipts would be submitted relating to the painting of the buildings. Mr. Defrates mentioned that the Council would begin receiving a copy of the monthly financial statements prior to the meeting to review and ask questions prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Betty Merchant and seconded to Janice Gresham to approve the financial report and the motion was unanimously approved.

The next order of business was a review of the sign proposal which had been submitted for review. Discussions were held regarding the changes to the proposal from the last meeting which was primarily related to the size and material of signs for the Family Life Center and the addition of lights for the large sign. The Council noted that the quote was decreased in total from the last meeting and was now approximately \$23,000. Discussions were held relating to funding and the Mr. Defrates mentioned that designated memorial funds totaling \$2,577 were available and the balance should be funded by the Trustees fund. Upon motion by David Bridges and seconded by Greg Defrates to approve the sign proposal as submitted, the motion was unanimously approved.

John Warren led the review of preparation for the upcoming Town Hall Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. The group reviewed a chart reflecting the former organizational structure of the Church and the structure that is now in place. Jonathan Vogt offered to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the meeting to communicate the new structure. Pastor Warren stated that reports from the VCI teams would be submitted at the Town Hall Meeting as well as a demonstration of the new website and the online giving process. An example of a communication card was provided to the Council to obtain input from the congregations. The communication card is targeted to be distributed in the Palm Sunday services.

An update of the VCI teams was provided next by John Warren and it was noted that the vision statement was complete and had been rolled out to the congregation. It was also noted that upcoming meetings were scheduled with the Worship Team and discussions were held regarding establishing a worship team for the traditional services.

Discussions were held regarding the process for handling the offerings in the various services. It was noted that the greeters would be requested to take care of this each Sunday to ensure that the offerings are brought to the office in a timely manner. The request for funds to purchase a Campus license for ProPresenter 6 for \$799 for the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service were held and Greg Defrates mentioned that designated funds were available in the Praise Service Technology Fund. The Council agreed that a vote was not required for this purchase.

General discussions were held regarding communication of the budget to individuals responsible for various committees. This led to a discussion of the VCI expenses and how we are reimbursed. Greg Defrates mentioned that he would have Norma Bergeron put together the VCI expenses to date. A motion by Jonathan Vogt and second by David Bridges was made to add a line item in the financial report for VCI expenses and allow John Warren the authority to approve expenses that were less than \$1,000 and expenses that exceed \$1,000 must be approved by the Church Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussions were held relating to memorial contributions and a motion was made by Greg Defrates and seconded by David Bridges to immediately place undesignated contributions in the general operating fund. The motion was unanimously approved. The Council agreed to continue the review of the process for designated contributions for a vote at a future meeting.

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