

First United Methodist Church -Orange, Texas
Meeting of Church Council
April 20 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by John Warren and a prayer and devotional were held. John Warren updated the Council on the attendance cards that were utilized in the services on Palm Sunday and mentioned that there was very good feedback.

Greg Defrates led the meeting in the absence of the Chairman, Jim Armstrong. The first order of business was to review the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 23, 2017 and the communication held in lieu of a meeting on March 30, 2017. A motion was made by David Bridges and seconded by Jonathan Vogt to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Further discussions were held regarding the method to approve the minutes of future meetings and a motion was made by Jonathan Vogt and seconded by David Bridges that the minutes would be provided to the Council members following the meetings and will automatically be considered approved within one week of distribution of the final version of the minutes. The Council discussed that this would enable the minutes to be approved more quickly to be made available to the congregation for review. The motion approved with a unanimous vote.

The financial report was presented by Greg Defrates who noted that the total receipts for the month of March were \$38,117. Total disbursements exceeded receipts by \$1,792 for the month of March. YTD March receipts were \$208,478 and represent 41% of the annual budget of \$512,941. YTD March disbursements total \$128,624 and were \$79,854 less than YTD receipts. Mr. Defrates mentioned that the financial report would be distributed in advance of future meetings. A motion was made by Sherri Fruge' and seconded by David Bridges to approve the financial report and the motion was unanimously approved.

General discussions were held relating to the cleaning of the facilities and publishing kitchen rules and policies. It was agreed that the rules should be published in a newsletter. Jonathan Vogt also mentioned that job descriptions would be updated.

John Warren informed the board of progress of the VCI teams and mentioned that a consultant would be visiting in May to review the principal needs for sound and lighting in the worship areas. He also stated that the project to add signs was moving forward. Pastor Warren mentioned that Marilyn Wadkins meets with the VCI teams once a month and would return the last week of April.

An amendment to the apportionment formula for the conference was reviewed by the Council to better understand what expenses would be presented relating to the VCI process. Greg Defrates mentioned that he would verify that the VCI expenses are being properly accounted for to be utilized in the formula. It was noted that the formula would apply for three consecutive years provided the Church continues to participate in the VCI process.

Proposals and updates were reviewed as presented in writing by Jim Brown on behalf of the VCI Worship Excellence Team as follows:

1. The first proposal was to combine the two traditional services (currently held at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) into one service during the summer months of 2017 (June – August) on a trial basis. A motion was made by Carol Allen and seconded by Sherri Fruge' and discussions were held regarding alternatives and obtaining opinions of a representative(s) from the 8:00 a.m. service in the review. A vote was held and failed to pass. The Council agreed to send the proposal back to the VCI Worship Excellence Team and request that at least one person from the 8:00 a.m. service be included in the review.
2. The second proposal was a request for a budget amount to hire a "Band/Blend Advisor" to assist the Praise Band with song arrangements which would be approximately 5-10 hours per month for assistance. Upon motion by Sherri Fruge' and second by David Bridges it was unanimously approved to budget \$3,000 per year for the "Band/Blend Advisor" to assist the Praise Band.
3. The third proposal was a request for a budget for a printer/copier and filing cabinet for the Praise Band rehearsals and use. The Council discussed and indicated that this proposal must be submitted at a future time to include the specific request with required dollars included.
4. The fourth proposal was for a budget to be provided in advance of the meeting with the consultant in May for sound and lighting recommendations that may be made for the Family Life Center. The Council discussed and indicated that this proposal must be submitted after recommendations are made by the consultant and should include the specific request(s) with required dollars included.
5. The last item presented by the VCI Worship Excellence Team was an update relating to changes made to the 9:00 a.m. Praise Service to reduce "dead time". The improvements include a new order of worship, improved bulletin and a banner inventory to be compiled to facilitate service "theme-appropriate" banners being displayed at each service.

The next order of business was a proposal made by John Warren for a designated amount for scholarships to be given out to high school and/or college students to build up our music program. After extensive discussion relating to the required use for scholarship funds and the music programs, it was agreed that a task team should be organized to review and present a proposal in either a special meeting or potentially a vote by correspondence.

General discussions were held relating to assistance requested for the Foster funeral and the need to communicate the appropriate process that should be used to present an issue before the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.