

First United Methodist Church of Orange
Church Council Minutes
Meeting of August 17, 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. and John Warren led the devotional and prayer in the Sanctuary.

While in the Sanctuary, the Council members reviewed proposals made by the Worship Excellence VCI Team regarding changes to the Sanctuary and discussed the proposal to hire an architect. The members resumed the meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

John Warren presented recommendations of the Nominating Committee and indicated that a new Council member was approached to serve and the person is prayerfully considering. Other options for the Council were discussed relating to the open seat as well as the open position for Chairperson. It was noted that the Guiding Principles indicate that the Council members are elected by the Nominating Committee and the Chairperson is elected by a vote of the Church Council. It was agreed to address the open Chairperson position once the open seat on the Council is filled.

A handout to present opportunities to serve in the Church is being prepared and an example was reviewed by John Warren. The handout will be provided to the congregation in the near future in an effort to obtain more individuals to serve in the various areas of the Church. The Council noted that many areas are for mission teams that will report through Pastor Warren.

Greg Defrates presented the financial report and indicated the month of July had total income of \$42,271.77 and expenses of \$40,276.75 for a net income over expenses of \$1,995.02 for the month. It was noted that the surplus of income was unusual and a positive for the month of July and Mr. Defrates stated that the YTD income exceeds expenses by \$53,493. Mr. Defrates and David Bridges reviewed areas of expenses that are exceeding expectations and are primarily related to maintenance and repairs of which some are paid from the trustee's fund. Discussions were held relating to the Trustee's fund and the source of income being related to donations of homes, the Malloy foundation and other sources. It was noted that two window units were purchased for the education building and have not been put to use. The Council indicated that it was important to utilize the new air conditioners to save on utilities and the use of the large unit for the building.

The Council reviewed changes that are required to the Guiding Principles to allow open meetings of the Church Council in compliance with The Discipline and to include the new Vision Statement. Greg Defrates volunteered to write a proposal for the wording for the open Council meetings and present it to the Council for a vote.

Sherri Fruge' presented an update of the various VCI teams and it is attached as an addendum to the minutes of the meeting. Extended discussions were held relating to the Space Utilization Team and in particular the Malloy Spiritual Enrichment Center and the Worship Excellence Team. Discussions were also held relating to open positions for service to complete the tasks for the VCI process.

Sherri Fruge' made a motion which was seconded by Barbara Dardeau to approve moving forward with stripping and waxing the floors of the Malloy building as proposed by Sparkling Clean in the amount of \$3,385 and to be supervised by Mrs. Fruge'. The motion was discussed and was approved unanimously.

The Council next discussed a proposal and update presented by the Worship Excellence VCI Team which presented ideas to enhance the space and requested the Council to hire an architect to assist with a proposal for updates to the Sanctuary to enable both the Traditional and Praise and Worship Services to be held there. David Bridges agreed to contact an architect from the Bridge City area to determine whether the services are a fit for the Church and Ginger Williams agreed to contact her daughter that is an architect with a firm in Austin that may be able to assist. Both agreed to get back to the Council with the results of their inquiries. The Council indicated that a proposal for changes to the sanctuary should be targeted for a vote in the November meeting of the Council.

The Council next went into closed session for a review by Jonathan Vogt of the SPR committee.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.