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Myrtle Beach First United Methodist Church

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First United Methodist Church Council

July 21, 2015

6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Jay Harr at 6:30 pm and with prayer by Randy Wallace.

Attendance:

Jay Haar, Randy Wallace, Ron Carpenter, Buddy Phillips, Doug Baxter, Lee Basinger, Susie Bickelhaupt, Donna McQueen, and Bill Davidson

Jay Haar made a few comments encouraging us as leaders to promote enthusiasm in our service in support of our church.

The **minutes** of the meeting were distributed and approved.

MINISTRY TEAMS

NURTURE

No report

EDUCATION

Joey Park reported:

- Looking forward to promotion of children this fall
- “Disciple: Jesus in the Gospel” class to start led by Earnie Knits and Wanda Ball....
- **Buddy and Jonathan** will be leading short term Bible Studies on Wednesdays
- New children’s curriculum starts this fall and teachers are being trained following its summer testing

OUTREACH

Doug Baxter reported:

- Working on scheduling next meeting to followup on previous plans
- Missionaries who are serving in China will speak during Sunday School hour Aug 9

WITNESS

No report

COMMUNICATIONS

James Sturgeon was unable to attend. **Ron Carpenter** reported they are progressing on the plan to web stream worship services on the internet with Comcast.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Lee Basinger reported that expenses are about \$100,000 ahead of revenue, \$50,000 of which are recent capital expenditures. 50% of apportionments are paid in full as scheduled.

TRUSTEES

Ron Carpenter reported:

- At their meeting last night they voted to order the Columbarium. Tentative date for groundbreaking is Sept. Architect Steve Usry is in charge of design and management of subcontractors for its construction. It is anticipated that the expenses for this project will be paid for by the sale of niches.
- The “re-landscaping” project of the church property is still in process with additional bids being sought.

The Council complimented the Trustees for their leadership on recent improvements and maintenance to the property.

Jay Haar asked about the church's situation with regard to cyber-security. Ron Carpenter reported that the web streaming upgrade through Comcast will provide additional support there.

- Ron further reported that the church sign project is progressing. He displayed the renderings and stating that ongoing funding support is being solicited from the congregation. The plan will be presented to with the hope that it will be installed by Christmas pending their approval and full funding.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Buddy reported that James Kirkland has begun service *as a maintenance man* under the standard 90 day probationary period.

LAY LEADER

Randy Wallace reported that the Contemporary Worship service is going well. He invited the Council to "be bold in prayer" in support of the ministries of the church for growth in spirit and participation. He especially encouraged prayer that our congregation will maintain and grow our spirit of hospitality.

PASTORS

Buddy Phillips reported that on the fifth Sundays beginning this August there will be one combined service in order for the congregation to experience the variety of worship experiences now offered by the church. It will be followed by a fellowship meal. This will also encourage the church family to get to know one another better. He encouraged a positive spirit in the congregation. Many persons will the church in the near future including a number of adult professions of faith. Plans are under way to follow the disciplinary procedure at Charge Conference to correct the membership rolls, removing the names of persons who cannot be identified. Charge Conference is Nov 18 at 7:00 pm. He will offer a 4 week study of Islam for the upcoming Wed evening program. He affirmed the informative letter sent to the congregation by the Trustees and encouraged us to thank them for their service.

He then closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Davidson

Called to order by Jay Haar. Members present.

Minutes approved: Motion by Frank Clark; 2nd by Craig Thomas

Buddy opened with prayer.

Ministry Teams:

NUTURE (Frank Clark):

- Parental Concern about lack of teacher for three yr olds.
- Bible Study –Jonathan begins Bible exegesis. Buddy may be doing Advent bible study. Buddy said the Islam study was really good – av. About 58.
- 5th Sunday will be November 29, First Sunday in Advent.
- All Saints Sunday, November 1, will be a busy: Communion, Stewardship Sunday, dedication of the columbarium
- Christmas Eve Services will mirror last year: 12 noon, 5 pm trad, 6 contemporary, 7 trad
- Office closed half day on Dec 23, all day 24, 30, 31, Jan 1
- Shepherds Child date: Dec 13
- Xmas dinner dec 6
- Hanging of the Greens maybe Nov 29, Advent 1

OUTREACH (Doug and Susan Baxter):

- Working with George Olive, Marion District Coordinator for Emergency Response; Assessment team coming from NC – once get here will be able to lead teams. Putting together more detailed Time and Talent survey that will include and focus on disaster relief.
- Ron re Impact Min (Todd Wood) at Beech Wood training this Friday night, October 23, 5:30-7:30 having a mud out” party”. Methodist effort will be in Conway. Buddy gave a summary of how United Methodists work in the midst of emergency: Assessment, ERTs
- There will be a meeting Nov 5 to go over budget

WITNESS

- Focusing on Health Fair - dev brochure for health fair
- Communications (James Sturgeon): Hot Spots: Office, sanctuary, Wesley bldg, Chapel

Administrative Committees:

Finance (Lee Basinger): Ron Carpenter gave report

- Church budget: last year got two large 50,000 gifts; budget looks “skewed.” Expenses were greater: painted church, roof repair (2014). Church budget is in decent shape; 250,000 in acct; have paid out 50% of apportionments; no fear that we will not be able to pay rest; apportionments are: \$217,304 (paid to date \$108,062); apportionments went down; now under \$200,000.
- Youth Fundraiser – pictures of dogs and Santa Claus

Trustees (Ron Carpenter gave report):

- Columbarium landscaped, face plates tomorrow; more sod on Thurs. Gate and fence will be coming. With that Phase 1 will be completed.
- Steve Usry’s architecture firm has been hired to handle details on painting the inside of the church; paint was gifted by member of the church who has requested that the church use professionals to pick out colors and to paint. Going to get rid of conduits with lights. New lights will have dimming capabilities. Leigh suggested that even though the carpet may not be changed now we should get a recommendation on a color.

Staff Parish Committee: (~~Scott Long~~):

- James Kirkley has completed probation period and is now full time now
- Jennifer Jillian is new part-time Communications Coordinator (90-day probationary basis); she will be looking at webpage
- Search Committee is looking for a full time Youth Person. They have reviewed 12 resumes and narrowed to four; interviewed three; four youth have been involved in the process.
- Salary adjustments for pastors: Tom Brittain asked for a reduction in his salary package (from \$25,500 to \$19,500): Salary, \$6,000; Housing, \$4,500; Medical Reimbursement, \$4,500; Accountable Reimbursement, \$4,500. The recommendation for the pastors salary package is for a 4% increase: \$ 3,000 for Jonathon, 5,000 for Buddy. Motion for approval was made by Leigh, and 2nd by Frank. It was approved.

Question about where the communion offering goes:

Special Reports

Closing Prayer by Jay Haar

Respectively submitted by

Cheryl Harrison-Davidson, *acting secretary*

Called to order by Jay Haar.

Members present: Jar Haar, Leigh Meese, Jim Creel sr., Lee Basinger, Martha Castellano, Rick Hussey, Daniel Shuler, Maddie Romanski, Carol Romanski, Rev. Jonathan Harris, Joey Park and Ron Carpenter.

Minutes corrected and approved: Motion by Lee Basinger: 2nd by Martha Castellano

Rev. Harris opened with prayer

The class of 2018 new members were welcomed and introduced.

NUTURE: Rick Hussey - no business or news..Mr. Hussey has just taken on the NUTURE chair and the groups have not met this year.

Joey Park- upcoming events in education- Lenten study will happen led by Joey and Terry Sanders called "Give up something Bad" date to be determined

VBS will be held on July 26-30

Also mentioned: Break in of the Wesley Bldg. Two TV's (flat screen) and Keyboards were stolen. Locks have been changed. Ron asked that we all take some responsibility in making sure our church is secure by checking windows and doors we all of the different groups use the facility.

OUTREACH (Doug and Susan Baxter); no report

WITNESS: John Boleck: no report

Jenifer Julian (communication coordinator) has been taken to full time in order to clean up the web-site and start live streaming.

Administrative Committees:

FINANCE: Lee reported that the church finished in a good position financially, with our giving ending up greater than our expenses for the year.

We are concerned about the lack of response in stewardship, however that has been a growing trend not only in our church but other traditional churches.

A budget of \$1,633,396 was discussed and approved for the 2016 year. Motion by Leigh Meese and 2nd by Martha Castellano. Unanimous vote.

TRUSTEE: Jimmy Jordan

Plans to paint the sanctuary and possibly change some of the lighting will take place this spring. A gift has been given to do this work. Dates will be announced later.

STAFF PARISH: Jim Creel Sr.

Dates have been set for meetings in 2016

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Country Music Festival in set for June: did not have as large an impact on the church as we thought but we will still need to make some arrangements for worship.

Rev. Jonathan reported that one of the new features of THE STEEPLE is the mission statement on the cover and how we sometimes need to be reminded of what ALL should be about and that is “making disciples of Jesus Christ” and if what we are doing and meeting about in all the different groups is not about MAKING DISCIPLES we might want to re-evaluate. A good thought for us all.

Martha Castellano closes the meeting with prayer.

First United Methodist Church Council

April 5, 2016

6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Jay Harr at 6:30 pm and with prayer by Buddy Phillips.

Attendance:

Jay Haar, Randy Wallace, Ron Carpenter, Buddy Phillips, Doug Baxter, Lee Basinger, Susie Bickelhaupt, Donna McQueen, Jimmy Jordan, Martha Castellano and Bill Davidson

The **minutes** of the October 2015 meeting were distributed and approved as corrected.

MINISTRY TEAMS

NURTURE (Rick Hussey) and EDUCATION

For education (copy attached)—children SS needs 3 teachers and coordinator

- Children's church working with worship committee to better align the services for children's attendance
- Adult ss class members are invited to relieve regular children's ss teachers for the summer
- New Disciples Path class for 7 weeks
- Vbs still needs volunteers. Promotion opportunities continue
- Asbury Hills Summer Camp—17 attending so far

For worship

- Reviewed Holy Week services
- Youth Sunday is May 29
- Summer schedule 9 am SS 10am worship (traditional and Anew!) June 9- September 4; review after the summer. Rationale:
 - Church only has 54 parking spaces and cannot block off for worship for summer city activities;
 - Attendance is down in the summer; one service will promote spirit of worship and community

Ron Carpenter on behalf of encouraged positive promotion of this change in preparation for it.

Rick Hussey moved and Carol Romanski seconded to support the Worship Committee and Senior Pastor in implementing this change. Motion carried.

- 4th of July Celebration is being planned again this year by Norman with hot dogs and hamburgers on the grounds for Sunday July 3
- Memorial Day Commemoration—display of 5000 flags in the church yard from American Legion in memory of the SC soldiers who have died in battle since WWI. Scout Troop will assist with this. An annual event.

OUTREACH (Doug Baxter)

- April 23 Stop Hunger Now event is scheduled for 9 am coordinated by Willa

WITNESS (John Bolek)

No report

COMMUNICATIONS (James Sturgeon)

- New Steeple format has been well received

- Website update is planned to make editing easier and add additional capabilities for mobile apps and other upgrades
- Texting system has been revitalized and in active use
- Live streaming of church services—ANEW! Has been broadcast a few times. Awaiting additional research for necessary upgrade options.
- Buddy commented that visitors are being attracted by

SCOUT REP (Daniel Shuler)

- Participation is almost 30 boys
- Eagle scout candidates are active in their completion
- Corey is stepping down as Scout Master (will continue at Assistant). Bill Kiner will serve as Scout Master.
- They welcome the opportunity to participate in the Memorial Day Commemoration and look forward to further service

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

FINANCE (Ron Carpenter)

- Lee Basinger has moved to NC and asked to resign as Finance Chair. Nominations Committee nominated Ron Andrews. Approved by Council as properly nominated by Committee
- Giving is behind expenses as usual during the summer
- Cash flow is supporting shortfall
- Church is up to date on apportionments
- Sanctuary painting and upgrading the lighting projects begin soon and completed by June 1. Portions of the sanctuary will be blocked off during the month of May.

TRUSTEES (Jimmy Jordan)

- Steve Usry will meet with Trustees next month for two new bathrooms to service the sanctuary. Plan will be presented for potential capital campaign to fund it.
- Trustees are studying current directional signage

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Jim Creel, Sr.)

No report

PASTORS

Buddy Phillips

Next meeting tentative date is July 19 6:30 pm

Buddy then closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Davidson

July 19, 2016

Church Council Minutes

Call to Order – Jay Haar, Chairman

Opening Prayer – Rev. Buddy Phillips

Members present:

Jay Haar, Rick Hussey, Suzie Bickelhaupt, Leigh Meese, Carol Romanski, Maddie Romanski, Jim Creel, Sr., Jimmy Jordan, Ron Andrews, Donna McQueen, Doug Baxter, Ron Carpenter, Rev. Buddy Phillips

Presentation on addition of bathrooms to Narthex - Steve Ussry, Architect
Trustees have voted 2 years ago to go forward with the project but other items took precedence (Columbarium & Refurbishing Sanctuary).

Overview information:

- Two bathrooms, approx. 200 sq. ft. each, located on either side of Narthex
- Single stall rooms with double wall construction for soundproofing
- Rendering shows front elevation including matching of existing brick, circle windows with cross motif to resemble current stained glass. Stained glass windows on front possibly backlit and left in place
- Plumbing in crawlspace under church and connecting to existing sewer lines. City maps will be used to locate.
- Architect will actively recruit commercial contractor and trades for project
- Time frame will be 4-6 months, many trades needed. Relatively small project but requires plumbing, electric, painting, tile, construction, brickwork.
- Cost is between \$275,000.00 to \$300,000.00

Trustees recommended moving ahead with project.

Called Finance meeting took place on June 13, 2016.

Finance Committee unanimously endorsed project and suggested funding by second-mile giving and using church line or credit *if needed* to complete funding. (Line of credit has NOT been used in past few years and to date, \$57,000.00 has already been donated for the project, so they feel this will be fully funded through second mile giving.) If needed, that debt would be added into the following year budget for repayment.

Church Council has authority to approve or not (a church wide vote is NOT necessary unless project is more than 10% of total value & this project does NOT meet that amount.)

Chairman calls for vote.

Approved unanimously.

Rendering and info will be shared with congregation through a church wide gathering on July 31 **and** it will be posted on church Facebook page, website, and in Steeple.

Other information:

Rev. Buddy shared intent to form a Centennial Committee to begin working on a church family celebration for our 100th anniversary in 2018. Several people will be invited to participate in planning which could take many months.

Next meeting of Church Council will be in October

Chairman ends meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Sanders

First United Methodist Church Council
October 18, 2016
6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Jay Haar at 6:30 pm and with prayer.

Attendance:

Jay Haar, Ron Carpenter, Buddy Phillips, Doug Baxter, Susie Bickelhaupt, Donna McQueen, Leigh Meese, Emily Kirby, Martha Castalano, Maddie and Carol Romanski, and Bill Davidson

Jay Harr reported that three new members are joining the council next year and Leigh Meese will take over as chair as his term of service is concluding.

The **minutes** of the July 2016 meeting were approved as written.

MINISTRY TEAMS

NURTURE no report

EDUCATION (Emily Kirby)

Jay Haar introduced and welcomed our new Director of Christian Education Emily Kirby.

- Elementary children are using the curriculum series based on the *Deep Blue Bible* translation
- Many adult classes are now using International Series
- Advent opportunities
 - Advent devotional—she is inviting persons to submit 1-2 paragraph meditations and encourages volunteers
 - Advent study will be provided
 - Working with Norman McQueen to plan an event to coincide with the Hanging of the Greens
 - After the first of the year: plans to begin woman's and men's short term Bible studies as well as Snowbirds short term study
 - Looking to form an Adult and Family Ministries Team to foster intentional fellowship opportunities quarterly for intergenerational experiences to bring together the congregation usually gathered separately in 3 different worship services. First event: create your own Advent wreath
 - Leigh Meese shared that the year had somewhat of a slow start due to curriculum starting two weeks after transition and the Sunday School hour start time adjustment (e.g. youngest classes had low attendance due to the earlier start time until the regular Sunday School hour was restored).

OUTREACH (Doug Baxter)

- Hurricane and flood relief is on “standby” as assessments continue. We may need to focus locally rather than regionally as our own church community needs are identified (e.g. flood buckets are stored here). We are prepared to receive persons for sheltering as needed in cooperation with the Red Cross. The youth of the church were complimented for their exceptional outreach on behalf of church members in need.

WITNESS

No report

COMMUNICATIONS Ron Carpenter reported

- Jennifer Julian is redesigning the website and steady progress is being made

WORSHIP Buddy Phillips reporting

- Strong support and compliments received for summer schedule as community and fellowship was enhanced. High energy resulted from the concentration of attendance and one “joint” choir in one worship service. One complaint: Sunday School schedule presented a challenge (although attendance held up well). Nationally Sunday School is declining with the rise of small group participation. An “A-B” schedule is being considered where classes decide if they want to meet at 9 am or 11 am (e.g. 9 am is a rather early hour for young children). Continuing flexibility will be necessary with summer community events presenting schedule and parking issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

FINANCE Ron Carpenter reported

- Giving is behind expenses as usual this time of year although missing one service due to Hurricane presented a challenge
- Cash flow is supporting shortfall and line of credit has not been accessed
- Church is up to date on apportionments and will make the fourth quarter payment on local missions shortly

TRUSTEES Ron Carpenter reported

- Current chair Jimmy Jordan is rotating off this year.
- Narthex bathroom project is \$85,000 shy of the goal.
- Storm damage: cross was lost; 18” X 18” hole in steeple that was a “hatch.” Damage assessed and awaiting repair. Sanctuary roof (replaced after Hurricane Hugo) may need to be replaced. Parsonage roof may also need to be replaced.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE Buddy Phillips reporting

- A number of new staff members have been welcomed. Ron Carpenter will retire mid December and interviews are under way with candidates from outside the church membership. Organist interviews continue. It is hoped that candidates for both positions will be presented soon.

The Council and staff expressed its gratitude to Jay Haar for his good service and to Ron Carpenter for his years of service.

Charge Conference is Nov 7

Next meeting tentative date is January 17th 2017 6:30 pm

Jay Haar then closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Davidson, Secretary

CHURCH COUNCIL

AGENDA

Call to order	Leigh Meese
Opening prayer	Rev.Buddy Phillips
Approval of minutes	Leigh Meese
Report from committees	
Finance	Ron Andrews
Trustees	Kenny Lidard
Education	Rev. Emily Kirby
Next meeting date	TBA
Closing Prayer	Rev.Buddy Phillips

CHURCH COUNCIL

AGENDA

Call to order	Donna McQueen
Opening prayer	Rev. George Howle
Approval of minutes	Donna McQueen
Report from committees	
100 Year Anniversary	Jennifer Hupko
Finance	Kenny Lidard
Education	Jennifer Hupko
Pastoral Care	Jennifer Julian
Trustees	Preston Brittain
CDM	Cindy Johnson
Extending Worship Time	Pastor George
Closing Prayer	Pastor George

CHURCH COUNCIL

AGENDA

Call to order	Donna McQueen
Opening prayer	Rev. George Howle
Approval of minutes	Donna McQueen
Report from committees	
100 Year Anniversary	Jennifer Hupko
Finance	Kenny Lidard
Education	Jennifer Hupko
Pastoral Care	Jennifer Julian
Trustees	Preston Brittain
CDM	Cindy Johnson
Extending Worship Time	Pastor George
Closing Prayer	Pastor George

Church Council Agenda

October 29, 2019

Call to Order	Judi Merchant
Opening Prayer	Rev. George Howle
Approval of Minutes	Judi Merchant
CDM Breach of Trust	Attorney Mary Ashley
Church Finances	Rev. George Howle- Ken L.
Future Planning	Rev. George Howle Ken Calligan
Closing Prayer	Rev. George Howle

Church Council Agenda

1. Update on Strategic Long-Range Planning (Malphurs Group)
 - A. Over view of what we have done so far
 - B. Schedule of future meetings

2. New Mission Statement and core Values adopted from the Long-Range planning group
 - A. **Follow Jesus and share him with others**

3. Current Financial situation and Budget Issues
 - A. Asking Committee members to be aware of Budget short falls
 - B. Steps being taken to help with Budget (church Administrator)
Changing Internet, Phones and HVAC Contracts, ETC.

4. Future Budget planning, Finance committee's request to start budget at Zero and to look at everything in budget.

5. Committee breakouts and responsibility's

6. Charge Conference Dates and Schedule.

Church Council

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2023

The Church Council met at 6:00 on May 8, 2023, in the Chapel of First Church. The meeting was opened by Debbie Conner because Ron Carpenter was unable to attend. Debbie asked our minister, Joel McMakin, to have an opening prayer.

> After the prayer Joel explained there would first be a called Charge Conference. Special permission had been given to Joel to conduct the conference by our district superintendent. The purpose of the called conference was to share that Jim Creel would like to be a church pastor. Jim shared he had felt God's calling. There had been a clear calling and a season of preparation. After Jim shared, Joel asked for questions.

> Neil Bowers: What is a charge conference?

> Joel: A meeting chaired by an ordained elder to make official decisions.

> Neil Bowers: What exactly is a local or church pastor?

> Joel: A person appointed by a home church and District Superintendent. They can only do sacramental and leadership at the appointed church.

> Joel then shared the requirements and ballots were passed to council members. Jim received the 2/3 required. (11 yay and 1 nay)

> Joel shared that Jim would be a spiritual leader.

> Jim's position will be a halftime position with a yearly salary of 20K. He will officially start in July.

>

> The charge conference was then closed, and the church conference began being led by Debbie Conner.

> Trustees' Report:

> 1. Working on their research for way forward - addition to the budget.

> 2. Appraisals being done on all property.

> 3. Counseling Center has moved. Remodeling work to be done @\$12,000.

> 4. Possibility of taking down bus station, will get more parking.

> 5. Landscaping improvement on front lawn.

> 6. Ron Andrews is looking into the Arcade and North campus properties.

>

> Greg Clemons reported that the budget would be updated monthly rather than weekly.

>

> Staff Parish committee report by Shelby Sansbury:

> 1. Employee Handbook has been revised and updated. Members of Church Council will be sent an electronic copy so it can be discussed at next meeting. Notable change will be office hours. Monday-Thursday 8-5 and Friday 8-12.

> 2. Job descriptions have been updated, and Joel has copies for distribution to the council members. Included in these are positions for a full time Youth Director and a full time Children's Director with salary ranges of 45-50K depending on their experience and education.

> 3. The Church Council was asked for a consensus on the 2 above positions. The Council approved.

>

> Strategic Leadership Team Update by Neil Bowers:

- > 1. 18 members on team
- > 2. Team met 4 weekends last year, planning and training sessions.
- > 3. Will start implementation process.
- > 4. Meeting again on May 15 to assess programs and discipline.

>

> Update by Joel on Counseling Center Move:

> Coastal Samaritan had planned to relocate for a while. They have moved to 2 units on Professional Drive. They want to continue to have our church involved. They are offering 5 hours a month of free counseling for our church.

>

> Lay Advisory Committee:

- > 1. The committee continues to meet in subgroups to discuss finances and processes needed in order to make decisions about affiliation.
- > 2. A date in January 2024 has been set for our church to vote.
- > 3. Prayer space for discernment.
- > 4. Small groups are being met with to help answer questions and share information.

>

> Lay Leadership:

> Debbie Conner reported that emails are being sent to chairs of committees to make sure they are meeting. There will be a follow up to make sure they have the resources they need.

>

> Missions report by Scott Bowen:

- > 1. The Faith pledges to date: \$58,768 of \$111,160 pledged.
- > 2. \$40,000 has been distributed to 10 organizations as pledged for the first 2 quarters
- > 3. \$20,000 to Habitat for a home in Conway. First work date is June 24.
- > 4. 9 church members participated in Miracle League.
- > 5. Church is going to help Carlin Creel with finances for a mission trip to the Czech Republic this summer.

>

> Children's Ministry report by Michelle Louk:

- > Rhonda Singleton and Pastor Michelle are organizing VBS for July 17-20.
- > Need summer teachers for Sunday School.

>

> Greg Clemons shared that Trustees and he are looking more carefully at designated accounts. It was found that several years ago an estate account that should have been allocated to our account at Waccamaw Foundation was put in the wrong account. This has been corrected.

>

> Respectfully submitted,

> Harriet Clark

>

Church Council

9/11/2023, 6pm Chapel

Attendance: Roger Hodges, Jane Hodges, Ruell Hicks, Brenda Bellamy, Drew Langway, Scott Bowen, Chuck Power, Janice Myers, Michael Hussey, Kay Roensch, Jenny Trantum, John Trantum, Geoff Jones, Jean Clemmons, Wake Haga, Ashley Hamilton, Darlene Rebeck, Lou Ann Barker, Pete Pearce, Melinda Morgan, Preston Bowers, Neal Bowers, Ron Carpenter, Joel McMakin, Jim Creel Jr, Debbie Conner, Rhonda Singleton, Willa Wrenn, Randy Wallace, Jayne Smith, Derek Price, Grant Nesmith, Rachel Platt, Case Brittain

Meeting Minutes

Ron Carpenter, Chair, called the meeting to order

Rev. Joel McMakin opened with prayer

Lay Advisory Committee: Update: Debbie Conner, Chair, reported that the lay Advisory Committee congregational meeting schedule will be:

Sunday, September 17: Background and Overview

Sunday, October 8: Theological Considerations

Sunday, October 22: Financial and Legal Considerations

Sunday, November 19: Other Methodist Affiliation Options

Copies of the Agreement to Separate from the SC Bishop and Conference Trustees were passed out to those in attendance. Pastor Joel gave a brief summary of the Agreement. Ron Carpenter asked if the council members were ok with hearing a motion from the Lay Advisory Committee after receiving a copy of the Agreement to Separate and listening to a summary of it, noting that a summary of the terms within the Agreement has been shared at a couple of other Council meetings and other occasions.

Debbie Conner made the motion: The lay advisory committee makes a motion that the church council vote to make an official request to the Marion District Superintendent Rev. Steve Brown, that we officially start the discernment process regarding our affiliation with the United Methodist Church. Also, we would like the discernment process to begin on November 19 and end on the date of the scheduled church conference, either January 21 or February 11.

Ruell Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 19-1 vote.

Finance Committee update: Drew Langway, the Finance Committee Chairman, reported on the church's Financial status. Year to date through the month ending August, 2023, Total Revenues are \$1,029,286.65, which are down when compared to the same period last year (\$1,115,102.84.) This is about an \$86,000 difference. There are two items that account for the majority of this difference. First, Known Loose Offering (GL 4004) is down this year mainly due to a one-time gift event made in 2022 in the amount of \$40,000. Second, there is no longer a Conference Reimbursement for the New Associate Pastor in the amount of \$37,250.

On the Expense side of the Budget Fund, the church administration has been diligently controlling expenses. Total Expenses year to date through the month ending August, 2023, total \$1,093,540.68 versus the same period in 2022 of \$1,135,915.25. This is a reduction in year over year Total Expenses by approximately \$42,000.

Trustees update: Ruell Hicks, Chair, reported that we are still waiting on the city of Myrtle Beach to give us their final word on whether or not they want to assist with the taking down of our Bus Station building and paving of our parking lot. Some HVAC units have been replaced at the North Campus. Some security cameras have been added to the Main Campus. The Child Development Ministry has received some grants to replace some of their playground equipment and some furnishings, and those items have been installed. The Marion District Building Committee has given their approval for us to sell a small portion of our property to the Department of Transportation (just over 1200 sq. ft) for \$20,000. In order to widen the turning lane onto 67th Ave North. The sale of this small amount of property will not affect our use of the recreation field at the location.

Youth Ministry: Derek Price, youth minister, reported that the youth kickoff went very well on Sunday evening. He was glad to see the number of youth, parents, and volunteers who came out to make the evening a success. He is looking forward to having a great start to the youth program beginning next Sunday.

Children's Ministry, Rev. Joel McMakin reported that we have hired Donna Cassidy to be our new full time Director of Children's Ministry. Donna will be moving from Connecticut in October. Donna is excited and has some great ideas. Joel is hopeful that We expect to introduce Donna in worship on Oct. 15 and have an ice cream social after worship, like we had for Derek and his family on their first Sunday.

Nominations Committee, Rev. Joel McMakin reported that the nominations committee will start meeting soon to recruit members for roles on various committees that need to be filled. Sept 24, Oct 1, 8, 22. The Nominations Committee will be working with the various committees to develop and/or improve their job descriptions to clarify what is expected of each committee. Pastor Joel mentioned that he would like for the committees to depend a little less on staff so that ministry can be multiplied within our church.

Missions Committee Update: Scott Bowen, vice chair, reported that the Missions Committee has been distributing the funds received from Missions Impact Weekend each quarter. Also on 10/8 there will be a combined adult Sunday School Class in the chapel to hear from a representative from Project Agape. The missions committee has been working on plans for next years Missions Impact Weekend. It is scheduled for Sunday, January 28. They will have speakers at both services, during Sunday school and at the luncheon after worship.

The meeting adjourned after Rev. McMakin closed with prayer.

Church Council met on December 11, 2023 in the Chapel.

Attendees: Kate Horsley, Ashley Hamilton, Wake Haga, Jim Lewis, Scott Bowen, Jenny Trnum, John Trnum, Christine Lenart, Brenda Bellamy, Randy Wallace, Neil McCoy, Michelle Louk, Debbie Conner, Joel McMakin, Harriet Clark, Jim Creel Jr, Drew Langway, Jenny Kelly, Sharon DuRant, Melinda Morgan, Ron Carpenter, Willa Wrenn, Jim Clemmons, Donna Cassity, Missi McMakin

Reports:

Trustees: Greg Clemmons, we are working on several projects:

Landscaping and walkway

Getting rid of bushes and revamping with pine straw

CDM- painted front entrance of Britain Center

Arcade Property: Sonshine House, Neighbor to Neighbor left. We painted in the Sonshine house.

Asbury Building: new carpet, paint

Discussed Bus Depot property, no decisions made at this time from City of Myrtle Beach due to increasing expense.

Finance: Drew Langway: shared YTD budget, revenues and expenses. YTD Budget spreadsheet was shared with attendees.

Strategic Leadership Team Update:

Committee met August- December 2022 for learning and planning.

The disaffiliation caused the committee to pause it's work and resume in May of 2023.

Everything is going well. There are 4 work areas:

Gather, Grow, Give, and Go.

Lay Advisory Report: Debbie Conner

Disaffiliation:

Randy Wallace shared that the ministers and committee have spent time in meetings and gathering outside research as well as visiting other churches. There have been numerous discussions on the theological and financial aspects of disaffiliation. The decision was made by the committee and the committee and ministers have worked to educate the congregation.

The Lay Advisory Committee moved that the church council vote to recommend to the congregation that our church disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Scott Bowen suggested that we needed to amend the motion to include the name we would use following disaffiliation so that members would know that our plans are continue operating as a Methodist church. The motion was amended to include: Our name after disaffiliation will be First Methodist Church of Myrtle Beach. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion from the Lay Advisory Committee

Based upon research, prayer, and discernment, the Lay Advisory Committee recommends to Church Council that our church separate from the United Methodist denomination by continuing to follow the terms set forth by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We move that Church Council consider a similar motion that reads:

Based upon research, prayer and discernment, the Church Council recommends to our congregation that our church separate from the United Methodist denomination by continuing to follow the terms set forth by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Amended to include that our new name after disaffiliation will be First Methodist Church of Myrtle Beach.

Mission Committee: Scott Bowen

\$105,142 was donated to various organizations.

Faith Habitat House was completed in December

Plans for Missions Impact Sunday on January 28, 2024:

Combined Sunday School gathering, 2 speakers from the missions we support

Combined Worship service, 2 speakers

Catered luncheon: two speakers

Estimated 300 jackets donated to children in need

Newest project: assisting with Nana Hope House

-\$12,000 in repairs

-This is a home being prepared for high school students who are homeless.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harriet Clark

Church Council Minutes - February 26, 2024 First Methodist Church Myrtle Beach, SC

The Church Council met in the Chapel at 6pm on Monday, February 24, 2024. Ron Carpenter called the meeting to order then turned it over to Pastor Joel to share scripture and a devotion. Joel shared from 1st Corinthians 12. He shared that we are the body of Christ and the importance of all parts of the body, meaning that all roles in the church are important. We all have a purpose and audience. Joel used text from Charles Stanley to tell how we are all needed, and we all need each other. We are to seek to be the body of Christ. This formation comes about by us being involved, individually and collectively. It is not just how we serve in church, but also how we are outside of church. He challenged us to center all thoughts that we are all needed. He ended his devotion with prayer.

After the devotion Ron took care of organizational things. Since this was the first Church Council meeting with the new members coming, everyone shared his/her name and position. Minutes from the December 11, 2023, were shared with Vance Shields making the motion of approval and Debbie Conner seconding. During discussion Scott Bowen made a correction to the minutes. The Hope House is being set up for Myrtle Beach High senior females. The correction was made, and the minutes were voted approved unanimously. Joel shared that job descriptions had been made and that Church Council would be our governing body.

Church Council will begin with a devotion at each meeting. Members are requested to contact secretary Harriet Clark to volunteer for this service. If no one contacts her, she will contact one of the members to do this service.

Committee meeting minutes are to be sent to Trisha three days after meeting. This is so she can gather them and send them out to Church Council members to read and see if there are any questions before the next council meeting.

Randy Wallace, Trustee Chairman, reported the trustees are working with Greg Clemmons on updating the leases on the Arcade building, as well as pursuing minor repairs and a couple of new leases in two of our Arcade buildings, the former Pavilak office and the Sunshine House. The trustees have quotes on the asbestos removal and the demolition of the bus station building, with much of funding allocated already. After receiving final bids in the next few weeks, they will begin the permitting process and be seeking contributions for the upfit of the area to a temporary or permanent parking lot after the plan is finalized this spring. The demolition will be done this year. We are also assisting in the review and preparation of documentation needed for the disaffiliation process that is ongoing prior to the final approval from the conference expected in June. Neil McCoy shared that we own 10-11 properties between the downtown campus and the North campus.

Clark Butler shared the finance report. They had their first meeting January 29, 2024. He reported that Pam Hill is the finance treasurer and Leslie Wasserman the recording secretary. His committee found that money is sitting idly; so they are looking for where to keep deposits as

to make money. He will share this plan at the April meeting. The committee is looking at internal policies. An auditor will come up with an updated financial policy. Clark said they would like to work on a budget in the summer (May-July) to set a financial goal, rather than have a fall campaign. At this point Greg Clemmons, Church Administrator, shared that James Jordan, CPA, whose firm specializes in church audits is doing our audit. Greg could not remember when the last audit was done. March 10 is the goal for the audit to be completed. Vance Shields had a question about the difference in our insurance with the disaffiliation process ongoing. The present insured replacement is 20 million dollars. This is one of the many things the auditor is looking into. Aaron McKnight shared the importance of getting several quotes and how looking at everything is important. Mike Hussey questioned what the budget would look like with no pledge campaign. This led to Craig Thomas's Stewardship report.

Craig reported that his committee would be meeting the following week to plan the stewardship campaign, and it may be different than just one campaign. The importance of starting to teach about tithing and what giving to the church means to the Youth was shared also as a goal. Clark shared that we are going to ask members to plan to give as they did in 2023 and the need to educate our congregation about giving.

Brenda Bellamy chairman of SPRC reported about the new staff handbook. Everyone had been sent a copy to read before the meeting. There were a few things to update and correct. She shared about the hours of staff. She made sure the hourly employees would understand they would receive compensation time for hours worked out of their normal hours are assigned.

All members received a copy of the current budget. After reviewing, it was pointed out that Jim Creel's salary was not included. Greg Clemmons said this would be corrected. The motion to accept the budget with the correction of Creel's salary was made by Vance Shields and seconded by Mike Hussey. There was no discussion, and the budget was passed unanimously.

Debbie Conner, Lay Leader, along with Neil McCoy, Ruell Hicks, and Greg Clemmons reported the following:

- NCLL (National Center for Life and Liberty) a nonprofit legal group has been hired for \$1000 a year to oversee us as we perform our mission as a church in all areas.
- We are waiting on a Tax ID #
- Incorporation documents signed in February
- Working on checks and balances

Vance Shields asked if we had met with other churches who have disaffiliated. It was reported that conversations were starting, but no official meetings have been held. Debbie Conner said we may be able to connect with other churches through the NCLL.

Scott Bowen gave a report from the Missions Team. He had a handout for everyone. (attached) He was very happy about the success of Mission Impact Sunday and the pledges made.

Buddy Styers reported for the Strategic Leadership Team. He shared they had had five months of meetings. The four work areas they have focused on are: Gather, Grow, Give, and Go. New projects include updated signage and parking lot ushers to provide immediate hospitality are in the planning. Pizza with the Pastors has been started to host new prospective members. 19 people had signed up.

Youth Director, Derek Price, gave an update on the Youth Program. He reported that nationwide 80% will not be involved with church when they graduate from high school. He shared that the Sunday evening gatherings are for learning about discipleship with games “sprinkled” in. They enjoy meals provided by volunteers and later split up into 4 groups to dive into the evening’s message. The goal is to root these young people into the Word of God. Work is being done on the upcoming Youth Sunday and plans for a summer trip to Look Up Lodge and a work week at Salkehatchie are in progress. He says they will have fun, but that is not the foundation of this program. Presently they are going through the Book of Philippians. Attendance 20-30.

Donna Cassity, Director of Children’s Ministries, shared the importance of our attention to the 0–5-year-olds. We need to nurture them and set the foundation, as well as nurture their families. She discussed the importance of better signage and security. She has begun to establish new more secure meeting areas for our children. She stressed the importance of these children to our future.

Mike Hussey requested that the CDM report to the Church Council. With mention of the CDM Joel asked us all to think about how our North Campus property can be utilized more.

After asking for prayers, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Clark – Recording Secretary