

## OVUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2017

Attendees: Ernest Leatherman, Eddie Garner, Tom Graves, Barbara Kennedy, Marty Bieber, Donna Fullwood, Michelle Sabin, Lisa Stites, Jeff Stites, Judy Tillman, and Jeri Robinson

Ernest called the meeting to order at 7pm. Judy opened with prayer. Ernest read Matthew 12:46-50 (Jesus' Mother and Brothers) and a related passage from Credo, a book by William Sloane Coffin. Ernest and several others shared their thoughts on these readings, then Ernest led us in prayer.

The February council meeting minutes were approved.

### Trustees Update:

Tom passed out copies of the Donation Policy for New or Gently Used Items, and copies of the Guidelines for use of Church Facilities. Judy mentioned that receipts for item donations can be provided, but must be approved by a member of the church committee receiving the item.

Tom said the sale of the lot across the street is waiting for a closing date, and that he would consult with the attorney and the realtor concerning the sale of the parsonage at the end of the current rental lease.

### Staff Update from SPRC:

Barbara said that regarding the resignation of Teresa Darnell, Michelle has some ideas. Michelle explained that in the short term, the need is to provide some continuity to the youth program. Longer term, we need to assess how we can best minister to our youth and make the best use of the youth ministry budget. She will be meeting with Teresa tomorrow morning (April 5) to discuss.

Barbara said that an employee pension fund is in the works, that current employees are very interested, and that it would be an attractive benefit for any future hires. She said four SPRC members went to a training class, and that they were hosting tomorrow's (April 5) Lenten Luncheon.

### Presentation for providing an OVUMC Counselor:

Michelle said she received a letter from Tammy Riggs Littlejohn, a Christian family counselor who is moving to Oak Island. Tammy counsels children, youth, and adults in family matters, but does not counsel those dealing with substance abuse. She has 10 years experience on-staff at a Methodist Church, is licensed, and currently has her own business and carries her own insurance. She would like OVUMC to consider providing her office space 2 days per week. Currently, OVUMC has a policy which prohibits the use of church property for for-profit use. Judy made a motion that we pursue this by having a small committee of trustees, BJ Ellender, and Michelle interview Tammy. The motion was seconded and approved. Michelle will contact Tammy to schedule this interview during her next trip to OKI (April 13 – 22).

## Committee Highlights:

Communications: Jeri and Jeff said that the the daily news and the news letter are operating smoothly, and that Jeff is handling facebook. Sarah W. received training and has already informed Michelle of several improvements to be made to her web page.

Adult Intentional Faith Development: Donna said they are working on small groups and seasonal classes, with a study on prayer in the Fall. A small group resource fair is scheduled in August.

Trustees: Tom said they have been busy with both maintenance and improvements to the property. Outside improvements are going well, and the pine straw will be arriving on Thursday (April 6) and at no cost to the Trustee fund. The property is now being monitored for fire alarms, and the cost for this monitoring is coming out of utilities (again, no cost to the Trustee fund).

UMW: Barbara listed off several accomplishments, including two funerals and the harbor district meeting. They've adopted a new funeral policy in order to simplify things. They are working on a Fall fund raiser, a Women's Tea, and new kitchen organization guidelines.

Finance: Judy said that OVUMC is (almost) on Amazon Smile, which will allow Amazon shoppers to have 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products donated to OVUMC. As soon as everything is verified, this will be publicized through OVUMC communications channels. She also said that the auditor we used last year has agreed to do our audit again this year. We are nearing the sale of two church owned properties, and at minimal cost to us. The proceeds of these sales could possibly be used to lower our monthly mortgage payments, and this option could be pursued with the lender. A motion was made to use 90% of the proceeds for this purpose, and the remaining 10% for the trustee fund. This motion was seconded and approved.

## Overview of Finances:

Judy passed out a Giving vs Expense spreadsheet which showed 2017 first quarter giving exceeding expenses by over 7%. This will also be publicized through communications channels.

## Pastor's Report:

Michelle said that the Nominations in Leadership Development committee will start meeting next week. And that the new members class starting after Easter will lead off with a meet and greet.

New Business: None was brought up.

Next meeting is June 6.

Eddie closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marty Bieber