

OVUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes – August 1, 2017

Attendees: Ernest Leatherman, Tom Graves, Barbara Kennedy, Donna Fullwood, Sarah Whitmer, Kerry Russell, Don Kluttz, Judy Tillman, Marty Bieber, Jeff Stites, Sarah Leatherman, Hal Wilson, Suzy Gabbert, and Michelle Sabin

Ernest called the meeting to order at 7pm. We observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Eddie Garner, who passed away the previous weekend. Ernest then led us in prayer.

The June council meeting minutes, as well as the June 20 special council meeting minutes (held to consider the recommendation of the ministry staffing vision team), were reviewed and approved.

Trustee update:

Tom said that the sale of the parsonage was finalized, and now the trustees can focus solely on the church property. Michelle asked about a rumor she heard regarding a new phone system, but Tom was unaware of it. He suggested she ask Greg Walker who perhaps could be looking into it. Tom said there is an open non-voting slot on the trustee board, and asked for any recommendations for filling it.

SPRC update:

Sarah L. said that they are moving ahead with filling the new Intentional Faith Development coordinator position, and have received three resumes so far. The deadline for submitting resumes is Aug 10. Barbara said that work on a new budget will begin soon.

UMW update:

Barbara listed several upcoming UMW events including a talent auction and the Brunswick Stew sale.

UMM update:

Hal said the next BBQ is Labor Day, there were three well-qualified UMM scholarship recipients, and that UMM will begin meeting again on September 16.

Lay Leader:

Don said that he is struggling a bit getting enough communion stewards, there are several lay servant ministry courses coming up, and several lay servant leader courses available outside our district.

Communications:

Sarah W. said the OVUMC web page now has more photos, and asked that we all look at the web page and provide feedback and/or input. She said that it would be good for the quarterly newsletter to have something from each committee.

Intentional Faith Development update:

Donna said that there were approximately 175 respondents to the interest survey, the resource fair is scheduled for August 27, from 8:30 – 1.00 in the courtyard, and that there will be plenty of books/studies related to the survey responses on display at the fair.

Worship update:

Suzy said that the committee didn't meet in July, but will in August. There was a lot of positive feedback regarding Music Sunday.

Overview of Finances:

Judy passed out the Giving vs Expense spreadsheet which showed continued growth in giving and income exceeding budget YTD, but noted that current expenses are lower due to the lack of the youth leader salary expense. She said that the new system for getting state/local tax refunds is working out well. This year's stewardship campaign will be two Sundays: October 22 and 29, with November 5 being consecration Sunday. Judy said that the proceeds from the sale of both properties totaled roughly \$220K, and that 90% of that was used to pay down the mortgage principal, re-amortizing the balance to maintain the same payoff date, which lowers our monthly mortgage payment substantially. The new mortgage balance should be posted by this coming Sunday. The remaining 10% will be used for a Trustee capital contingency fund.

Ernest passed out a letter from Phyllis and Kirk Neeley, which expressed their desires concerning naming of the water garden and columbarium, and requested that a volunteer group be formed to maintain the water garden, which they would be part of. We discussed the naming issue, and agreed to use: The Todd John Neeley Memorial Water Garden, and The Ocean View Columbarium. We also agreed to the forming of a volunteer water garden maintenance group.

Pastor's Report:

Michelle said that since Tammy Littlejohn was introduced to the congregation at all three services, she is now working with several clients. She suggested that we add a link to her website from the OVUMC website, and Sarah W. agreed to do this. Michelle said that staff appreciation month was much appreciated, and that the blurb had to be removed from the daily news due to the overwhelming amount of appreciation expressed in the form of food. She said that the ad hoc team process used to make the necessary decisions/recommendation regarding staffing went well. The new volunteer youth leader, Ellen, is working out very well, but she will soon not be able to come on Wednesday evenings. Michelle asked if council considered the possibility combining our youth group with Trinity's was a good enough idea to pursue further, and we agreed in concept – she will get more details on what that might look like. Michelle also asked that we go to nccumc.org to learn about the Commission on a Way Forward, which is considering issues related to human sexuality. The nominations committee will be meeting August 24.

New Business: None was brought up.

Next meeting is October 3.

Judy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Bieber