

OVUMC Church Council Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2017

Attendees: Judy Tillman, Dan Tillman, Marty Bieber, Sandra Fincher, Tom Graves, Suzy Gabbert, Sarah Whitmer, Jim McIntosh, Barbara Kennedy, Sarah Leatherman, Bev Dwane, Michelle Sabin, Ernest Leatherman, and Rick Russell

Ernest called the meeting to order at 6:58pm (this meeting followed the Called Charge Conference) and led us in an opening prayer.

The October council meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Ernest recognized the new council members who were present: Jim McIntosh and Sandra Fincher; as well as all members leaving council next year: Don Kluttz, Sandra Booth, Jeff and Lisa Stites, Ernest and Sarah Leatherman, and Donna Fullwood. Michelle expressed her thanks to those council members who extended their terms for the sake of continuity as she came to Ocean View as senior pastor.

Ernest encouraged folks to highlight accomplishments of the past year.

Intentional Faith Development update:

Bev expressed how happy she was to be in her role as IFD coordinator. She said that the Walk to Bethlehem has had a great response: 122 signed up, and 102 logs turned in so far. The advent study has 40 attendees, and has been receiving positive feedback. VBS will happen this year, and Joanne Murphy is heading that up. The new members class and a Climate Justice class are still planned for January.

SPRC update:

Sarah L. said that among the good applicants for IFD coordinator, Bev was the best choice. Two full-time employees have signed up for the conference retirement plan. SPRC had updated and clarified employee job descriptions and the employee manual. She added that with the youth leadership change that occurred, several employee roles had also been redefined.

UMW update:

Barbara said that the annual UMW Tea went well, and the Fall Festival was a great success. She said that there are some new members on the leadership team and that they are considering some beneficial reorganization within the UMW.

Communications:

Sarah W. said that rotating the responsibility for producing the Daily News is working well. Facebook postings are being made to both the OVUMC and Oak Island Locals pages. The OVUMC web site updates are going well.

Worship update:

Suzy acknowledged Michelle and Rick's great ideas, and that several positive changes have been made to the worship services, including the decorating of the alter. She said that with so many people helping with the different worship team tasks, things are going well. Michelle added that the 9:30 contemporary service attendance has not kept up with the other services, and that changes to the format are being considered.

Trustee update:

Tom said that presenting financials during trustee meetings was informative and helpful. New phones are installed, programmed, and working well. Three air handlers had to be replaced, and three others repaired over the past year. The sales of both the parsonage and the vacant lot were completed, and that is a relief. Trustees are considering a different way to change the high light bulbs in the church that will be easier and safer. Michelle asked trustees to consider how to create a space which is larger than any of the current classrooms, but not as large as the MPR, as we have needed such a space lately.

Associate Pastor:

Rick expressed his thanks to all who are leaving their positions. He explained a bit about Congregations for Children: a UMC initiative focused on addressing child poverty in NC through local church partnerships with public schools. He also talked about Brunswick Early Success Team: a literacy focused partnership between Brunswick County Schools and community leaders and volunteers. We are planning to again participate in the Winter Nights sheltering program. We participated in Pender Kairos 33. We continue to work with the Interchurch Fellowship. We have new food pantry ministers, lead by Skip and Ellen Cox. We delivered 53 Thanksgiving baskets.

Overview of Finances:

Judy said how wonderful it was working with Tom on the property sales, which allowed the reamortization of the mortgage and the establishment of both the Trustee and Budget contingency funds. She reiterated how the Trustee budget got a needed increase for 2018. She passed out the the Giving vs Expense spreadsheet and briefly went over the continued positive data which will also be published via communications channels. She said that the currently received pledges for 2018 indicate no need for further stewardship campaigning. She proposed increasing the Budget contingency fund from approximately \$60K to \$87K (equivalent to one years worth of mortgage payments) and formalizing it by moving it to a separate, interest bearing account. This was approved.

Pastor:

Michelle proposed giving this year's Christmas offering to the Harbor District for repairing a family's home damaged during hurricane Matthew. This was approved. She said that the front desk volunteers are doing a great job answering the phone and helping with various other office tasks. The church office will be closing between Christmas and New Year's.

New Business:

None was brought up.

Next meeting is February 6.

Michelle closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Bieber