

**Signal Crest United Methodist Church
Church Council Minutes
January 12, 2020**

1. **In Attendance:** See attached roster of attendees.
2. **Onboarding.** Josh Kilbourne, Senior Pastor, opened the meeting by welcoming new members to the Church Council. He reminded the council of the need to prioritize discipleship, to lead by example and to be engaged followers of Jesus. Josh reviewed the scriptural basis for our vision, which is Romans 12:10-13. Bill Thornton, Associate Pastor, led a prayer.
3. **Ministry Fair.** Josh informed the Church Council that during services in February he will encourage the congregation to be more engaged in the church via a sermon series titled "Get in The Game." We will hold a Ministry Fair on February 16, 19, and 23. Coach Johnson of Howard High School will preach on February 23.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Jeff Norwood, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Jeff stated that the information in the report is derived from the church's financial records, but that some records are currently incomplete. Income and outgoing funds are complete and accurate, but some ledger entries and reconciliations require further work and the team is working diligently to complete that work.

Signal Crest ended 2019 in good financial standing. The church had total gifts of \$1,073,277 in 2019, including a \$10,363 increase in tithes from 2018.

The church's full apportionment was paid to the Holston Conference, and all payments were made to the District.

During 2019 the parsonage sold for approximately \$254,000, of which \$230,000 was used to pay down the building loan for the Crest Center. The difference was used to address maintenance needs. Mark Smith, Church Council Chair, stated that he is grateful we are now in a position to consider paying down loans.

5. **Finance.** Marti Wayland, Finance Committee Chair, introduced the new Finance team composed of Jeff Norwood (Treasurer), Tracey Thornton (Accounts Payable and Payroll), Allison Maynard (Financial Secretary) and herself. Allison Evans and Scott Lowe, both CPAs from our congregation, have offered to lend their expertise and have already been of service to the team.

The Finance Committee is responsible for financial stewardship, including compiling and approving the budget, and developing and implementing plans to fund the budget. The Finance committee members are Rebecca Miller, Randy Evans, Paul Jensen, Tracey Thornton, Scott Lowe, Laura Jeffries, Patrick Cruise, Tricia Earl and Marti Wayland (Chair). The Finance Committee will begin regular meeting in January.

The Church's financial position is currently sound. Progress is being made on accounting procedures but there is work is left to do.

Marti recognized Jeff Norwood, Alison Maynard, Allison Evans, and Tracey Thornton for their tireless work.

6. **Staff Parish.** Penny Selman, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair, stated that the accountant position is still open and that a three-month hold has been placed on filling the position. The time will be used to determine if we have coverage needs in our financial staffing, and how to cover those needs if any are found. We have started paying the Financial Secretary, which will most likely continue if it is decided to not hire an accountant.
7. **Stewardship Report.** Kirby Johnson, Stewardship Chair, opened by stating that the role of Stewardship is to raise funds to support a unified budget. Giving for 2019 exceeded the budget by 1%, compared to 6% over for 2018, and 11% over for 2017. The team is proceeding with communications, and is keeping in mind the need to meet the goals of Trusted Leadership.

The pledge default rate was consistent with the historic default rate of 4%. Some overpaid their commitment, which resulted in an offset. For 2020 approximately \$668,000 was pledged, which is approximately \$20,000 more than the 2019 campaign. Letters will be sent thanking those who pledged for the 2020 campaign.

The transition to conducting the Stewardship Campaign at the end of the year was completed, and it is expected that the next campaign will again be at the end of the year.

An annual report was done for first time ever last year. The same format will be used for the 2020 annual report. The annual report is now a Stewardship responsibility.

8. **Vision Report.** Colin Johnson, Lay Leader, presented an update for the Vision effort. The Vision leaders met late in 2019 to review the existing Vision and to discuss an update effort, and Senior Pastor Josh Kilbourne provided feedback. It was determined to start a Vision refresh by inviting representative membership from across the church to participate. The enhanced team will look at where objectives can be consolidated, and will use focus groups to provide feedback. Colin already has input from the leaders of the current vision initiatives, and a presentation will be made to the Church Council in February.
9. **Trustees Report.** Josh Kilbourne stated that Greg Cullum was elected as the new Chair of Trustees for 2020, with Mike Garvich as Vice Chair. The Trustees will meet on the second Monday of the month. Plans are underway to update the security plan and to address other physical needs of the church.

At the Trustees meeting Jeff Kelle recommended that Signal Crest should be proactive in determining how to leave a legacy, and should determine how to use its current endowment. Jeff will be forming an endowment committee with members from Trustees, Stewardship, and Finance. The endowment currently has a balance of approximately \$147,000. Colin Johnson stated that it was intended to be withdrawn and used at approximately 4-5% annually. An endowment spend policy will be created.

Kirby Johnson contributed that an estate planning campaign has not been formalized yet, and that estate gifts don't have to go into an endowment. Paul Jensen pointed out

that tax law allows for qualified contributions. On the Signal Crest website, the Give Back+page has been revamped, and work on this page is ongoing.

The need to have more chairs at the 9:00 service is being pursued.

Tom Cofer, Church Council Vice Chair, stated that pricing is being done for the revised Signal Crest UMC sign that will go over the current concrete sign. An additional sign will be placed at the parking lot, which will be a move and rework of the sign from in front of the church building. Entrance and exit signs will be improved for the parking lot. Pricing will be revisited.

10. **General Conference.** Josh Kilbourne discussed the proposal recently in the news for a traditionalist denomination to separate from the United Methodist Church. Josh emphasized that at this time this is only one of several proposals that will be addressed at the May General Conference. No action needs to be taken at this time beyond praying for God's guidance. The proposal is from one group of traditionalists who have decided that they want to leave the United Methodist Church. Beyond this, much of recent media reports was nothing more than speculation. Josh observed that one of the strongest points of United Methodist Church is that is a global organization, but that this also comes with challenges.

Josh wants to see church grow, and believes the church will respond whatever happens. He has friends on both sides of the issue. Bill Thornton stated that he has prayed on this decision. He discerned that no matter what position is taken a large group of people will disagree. We are called to proclaim Christ to everyone. Josh is not a member of any of the advocacy groups on the split issue, and does not want to be part of a denomination that forms based only on this issue. The split proposal has taken attention away from discipleship. Josh said that God has called him to be a bridge builder and sighted the quotation "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and all things charity."

Mark Smith recommended subscribing to Holston conference communications, which provides a comparison of the proposals. Mark stated that there is nothing to respond to at this time, but we can be ready.

Josh encouraged that our focus as a church needs to be on the invitation to the Jesus Life+class.

11. **Preschool.** David Tonahill stated that the preschool is at maximum capacity. There is a fence that is need of additional support. The Trustees have already discussed the issue and a qualified member of the church is going to look at it, and recommend next steps to ensure it is addressed before the state assessment on March 3.

The next Church Council meeting will be February 23, 2020.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Steve Strickler, Secretary

Signal Crest United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Attendance
January 12, 2020

Drew Barton _____

Jane Bilbrey _____

Hugh Bullock _____

Tina Close _____

Tom Cafer Tom Cafer

Becky Cullum Becky Cullum

Cindy Deere Cindy Deere

Rachael Dow _____

Rebekah Ducote Rebekah Ducote

Mike Garvich _____

Sherry Hubbard _____

Paul Jensen Paul Jensen

Colin Johnson Colin Johnson

Kirby Johnson _____

Mitchell Johnson _____

Josh Kilbourne Josh Kilbourne

Lynn Lancaster _____

Doranne Lane _____

Allan Ledford Allan Ledford

Bill Leonard _____

Carole Long Carole Long

Allison Maynard Allison Maynard

Jeff Norwood Jeff Norwood

Kristin Robertson Kristin Robertson

Sarah Kate Rogers _____

Penny Selman Penny Selman

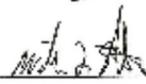
Mark Smith Mark A. Smith

Paul Snyder Paul Snyder

Kristy Stewart Kristy Stewart

Steve Strickler Steve Strickler

David Tonahill 

Bill Thornton 

Pat Utley _____

Carole Waller _____

Marti Wayland 

George Wilkerson _____

Please print name and sign

