

Minutes Church Council 12-9-2018

Attendance: Garth Beany, June Bilbrey, Tina Close, Tom Cofer, Jamie Culbertson, Cindy Deere, Patrice Glass, Sherry Hubbard, Paul Jenson, Kirby Johnson, Bill Leonard, Allison Maynard, John Maynard, Anne Pitts, Kathy Robertson, Kristin Robertson, B.W. Ruffner, Mark Smith, Kristy Stewart, Bill Thornton, Fred Wildman. **Guest:** Rob Hall

Chair John Maynard called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Vice-chair Mark Smith presented a devotion with a Paul Harvey Christmas story. Mark ended his devotion with a note of thanks to John Maynard for stepping in to fill the position of Church Council Chair in 2018. Mark stated that John stepped into a void and helped lead the church at a critical time of working to improve finances. The council expressed thanks to John with a round of applause.

The minutes from the November church council meeting were approved.

Committee reports:

Trustees:

Chair of trustees, Garth Beany presented the report on the final financials for the renovation of the old fellowship hall into the Children's Area. The original approved budget was \$70,000. Due to issues with flooring and old electric wiring, the final cost of the project was \$76,703. Garth answered questions about the overages. Questions were asked about removal of the ceiling, flooring costs, and labor. Garth and Fred explained the costs and reasons for expenditures. Garth reminded everyone that the \$70,000 approved for the Children's Area came from the bequest gift of Sybil Carr and that there is \$30,000 remaining.

Following questions, Garth continued his report noting that there is a need to purchase two new computers. One computer will replace a current staff member's computer that is outdated and needs repair. The second computer will be used by Reverend Doug Fairbanks while he is serving as interim minister and then will be the computer for the new pastor. The cost for the two computers and a docking station for the minister will be \$3,676.

On behalf of the trustees, Garth made a motion that \$10,379 be spent from the Carr estate gift to cover the \$6,703 overage on the children's area and \$3,676 for the purchase of new computers. Tina seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff/Parish Relations:

Chair Cindy Deere announced that Signal Crest Worship Leader David Robertson submitted his resignation and that his last Sunday will be February 24, 2019. David served on the committee that helped plan the construction of the Crest Center. He also helped develop the services as the Crest Center opened before accepting the position of Worship Leader. In submitting his resignation, David said that with his sons growing up he just needed more family time. Members

of church council noted how much David will be missed as worship leader but were thankful that he will still be an active member of the congregation.

Cindy presented Assistant Youth Leader Drew Barton to the council. Drew is in the process of completing the process to enter the program to become an ordained deacon in the UMC. Drew explained that he has applied to enter a two-year program through the Duke School of Divinity. The majority of the coursework is online, but he will be required to complete six one-week sessions at Duke throughout the program. Drew explained that the difference between an ordained deacon and ordained elder is that the role of ordained deacons in the UMC is more mission driven and community based. Deacons are not part of the same appointment process that elders are and therefore do not move as regularly. Drew noted that he knows his calling is more about being a focused part of a church community and being mission driven.

Cindy explained that one final step in Drew's application process was for the Church Council to approve Drew as a candidate for ordination as a deacon. On behalf of SPR, Cindy moved that Drew be approved as a candidate for ordination. Almost in unison, the majority of council members seconded the motion. John called for the vote which was answered with a resounding unanimous approval.

Scouting:

John called on Council Vice-Chair Mark Smith who reported that, on behalf of the council, he recently signed the legal documents to complete the re-chartering of the church's scout troop. Bill Leonard spoke to the strength of the scout program. Guest Rob Hall, scout master of the Cub Scout program, noted that the den was very active and growing. Rob also mentioned that the Cub Scouts are seeking additional projects to help around the church in order to provide scouts with opportunities to complete their service projects. Rob also noted that the Cub Scout troop sold \$21,000 of popcorn in their annual fundraiser, which was the second highest amount in the Cherokee Area Council.

Mark's report on the re-chartering was informational and needed no action from the council.

Finance:

Finance Chair Tina Close reviewed the year-to-date cash balance as presented in the Sunday church bulletin and reported that the finance committee considers the church's finances to be the most stable they've been in the past year.

Tina presented the proposed budget for FY 2019 (see attached). Tina noted that with a reconfiguration of staffing and no longer having an associated minister that personnel/payroll costs were down to just under 47% of the budget which is much more in-line with other churches the size of Signal Crest. She also noted that the amount of money being spent in support of missions is up and the importance of that fact.

On behalf of the finance committee, Tina made a motion that the council accept the proposed budget of \$1,006,911. John asked for a second. A point of order was made to clarify that the motion was from the committee so a second was not needed. John acknowledged the point of

order was correct but stated that he would like to have a second. Jamie seconded the motion and it passed.

Following the vote on the budget, John noted that this was the first time in three years that the church was beginning the year with an approved budget. He thanked the finance committee for working to restore the 10% of the budget that was cut from each programming area in 2018, and he thanked the staff for completing so much good work in reducing the budget.

A question was asked about the status of the sale of the Arrow Drive parsonage. Garth and Tina jointly answered questions about showings and feedback from those showings. A question was asked about the current condition of the church roof and whether any money from the sale of the parsonage might be set aside for future roofing needs. Garth noted that the insurance company covered the roof at 100%, so that means the insurance company must think that the roof is in acceptable condition for the time being. John and Garth both noted that part of the proposal for selling the parsonage was that the proceeds would be used to pay down the current building debt. Church Council and the Conference's Committee on Property both approved the sale based on that stipulation.

Stewardship:

Chair Anne Pitts reported that the stewardship committee had been concerned that with the church getting an interim minister that timing of the stewardship campaign might need to be adjusted. Though Reverend Fairbanks isn't joining the church until December 16, he had met with Anne to discuss stewardship. Anne happily reported that Doug is fine with launching the campaign January 13th and having consecration Sunday on February 3rd as already planned.

Anne noted that the Stewardship team is working on a theme and that a full and robust campaign plan is moving forward.

John called on Allison Maynard who had a suggestion for the church's annual Christmas Eve Love Offering. Allison shared that Camp Lookout is in need of a new van. There was discussion about past offering expenditures and the appropriateness of helping Camp Lookout since so many of the children in our church attend camps and programs there. Allison made the motion that this year's offering be given to Camp Lookout to use towards the purchase of a van. Paul seconded the motion and it passed.

Trusted Leadership:

Assistant Lay Leader for Trusted Leadership, Paul Jensen, explained the goals of this new committee. Formed out of the visioning process, the Trusted Leadership team is charged with promoting leadership within the church, developing leaders, and helping the congregation understand how the church governance and committees work. Paul stated that, throughout the visioning, it became clear that many people within the church do not understand how decisions are made either at the church level or at-large within the UMC.) Throughout 2019, the Trusted Leadership team is going to highlight and explain the church hierarchy through targeted messaging in the church newsletter, bulletin, and other ways. Committees and chairs will be highlighted in ways that help explain what each volunteer does to further the work of the church.

Paul asked that committee leaders help his team by working with them when contacted about their particular committee responsibilities and efforts.

Wrap-up:

Following all committee reports, John thanked each of the committee chairs and committee members for working so hard this year. He noted that it had been a particular busy year with each committee working diligently in efforts to reduce spending yet do more to further the work of the church. John noted that the church was ending the year in a positive financial position. He also stated that there is a sense of excitement following the wonderful Christmas program the previous Sunday and an eagerness as we get a new (yet returning) minister for an interim period. John expressed his thanks to everyone for giving of themselves to do so much for the church.

Respectfully submitted by Patrice Glass (reluctant temporary replacement for absent secretary)