

**Signal Crest United Methodist Church
Church Council Minutes
January 27, 2019**

1. **In Attendance:** See attached roster of attendees.
2. **Devotion.** Tom Cofer, as Church Council Vice chair, opened the meeting with a devotion focused on David Swanson, former youth minister at Signal Mountain Presbyterian. WWII Project Habakkuk was discussed as an example of how great, unexpected things can be done and was related to Habakkuk 1:5 %look at the nations and watch . and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.+ (NIV) Immediately following the devotion Doug Fairbanks lead the Church Council in prayer.
3. **Introduction of Council Members.** As this was the first Church Council meeting that included new members inducted for 2019, and some in new roles, Mark Smith, as Church Council Chair, requested everyone introduce themselves, their role, and provide a brief background. This proceeded with insights into people's journeys that lead them to be at Signal Crest today.
4. **Church Council Schedule.** The schedule of future Church Council meetings was discussed. This included Mark commenting that the Church Council meeting in early February may be rescheduled, due to the current planned date being soon after the current meeting in session.
5. **December Minutes.** The Church Council minutes for December 2018 were then circulated. Doug Fairbanks provided an update that David Robertson's last day as Crest Worship Leader is now planned to be the last Sunday in February. The December 2018 Church Council meeting notes were then submitted and approved.
6. **Meeting Format.** Mark Smith then presented a plan to continue agenda-based meetings for the Church Council. Mark expressed appreciation for Doug Fairbanks taking on the role of senior pastor for the next six months while a new permanent senior pastor is being selected.
7. **Ministers Report.** Doug Fairbanks provided a very complimentary overview of his perspective of Signal Crest UMC and that the laity of Signal Crest is a strength.
8. **Staff Parish Report.** The Staff-Parish committee is working toward finding new leadership for the Crest Service as David Robertson has presented plans to move out of the Crest Worship Leader role.

The process for finding a new senior pastor for Signal Crest is underway. The Staff Parish committee met with the District Superintendent to provide background on the needs of Signal Crest to aid in the selection of the next senior pastor. There is potential that the identity of our new senior past will be available in April 2019.

9. **Nominations:** Doug Fairbanks, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, recommended Jeff Norwood as the new Treasurer. Tina Close provided an overview of the responsibilities of Treasurer. The role will now be focused on reviewing the financial books, managing equity and brokerage accounts, and will have signature authority for checks.

An accountant has been hired who will be present on-site one day a week and will be responsible for traditional accounting responsibilities.

The motion to confirm Jeff Norwood as Treasurer was then unanimously approved. Doug Fairbanks noted that two assistant Treasurers will be named.

10. **Finance Report.** Tina Close discussed that final financial numbers for 2018 are not yet available, but she reported that Signal Crest collected the highest amount of revenue it has ever collected. Our financial condition has improved dramatically from six months ago, and we now have a healthy cash balance as we enter 2019.

Tina stated that TouchPoint software is being rolled out as a new Church management system. It has the capability of handling communication functions, member records, and giving functions. For accounting functions, we are switching to Quickbooks, and will be moving away from PowerChurch. All finances will be moved to Quickbooks including the youth checking account and Preschool records. Tina noted that we will be changing some of our accounting methods. Mark commented that that these changes will enhance our ability to run reports and quicken our closing cycles.

11. **Committee Reports.**

- a. Vision Team. Paul Jensen discussed that transparency is improving, and that if opportunities are seen then they should be brought to the attention of the Hospitality and Elevated Warmth teams. Paul asked the Council to encourage others to contribute as there remain needs and opportunities.
- b. Trustees. Mike Garvich presented that the sale of the parsonage at 117 Arrow Drive is expected to close on February 5, 2019 for \$273,000. Fred Wildman asked where funds will be used. Proceeds are planned to be used to offset repair costs on the 308 Laurel Street property, and the remainder will be used to pay down outstanding debt on church facilities.
- c. Stewardship. Anne Pitts proceeded with a discussion regarding the annual Stewardship campaign which is currently underway. She thanked Doug Fairbanks for his help in advancing this campaign. Anne discussed that the Stewardship Team wants to continue with a focused effort to remind the Church that stewardship is an ongoing effort. A new function is now available so that pledge cards can now be completed exclusively online, and an email communication will be made to promote this ability. Consecration Sunday is February 3.
- d. Communications. Kristy Stewart presented that the Communications team is supporting the Vision Team efforts, and that new pew cards are going to be

distributed. TouchPoint will be used to enable communications of leaders with their groups.

The new receptionist role has received interest but no one person so far could cover the full need, so job sharing is being considered as a possibility to cover this role. The council expressed thanks to Kristy for her continued engagement with Signal Crest.

Basecamp will continue to be used in the near term while TouchPoint is evaluated against Basecamp for functionality. Some groups are currently using BaseCamp heavily for communications and document storage. Marti Wayland expressed concerns regarding the exclusivity of Basecamp, and questioned whether there is a need for a platform that is by nature more inclusive.

- e. Missions. Doranne Lane stated that the Missions Fair was held on January 27, and that another will be held on February 3. The Firewood Ministry had another delivery truck stuck in the mud. To address this problem the UMW will be buying gravel to improve the work location. Kristy said our work needs to be celebrated, with a possibility of using the Mission boards from the Missions fair to continue to promote the work being done.
- f. Children's Team. Chrissy Gray informed the Council that the first meeting of year was held for the Children's Team, and plans were reviewed to align with the Vision Plan.

The new downstairs is working well and everyone is happy and excited about the newly renovated space. There is a need for sound panels to reduce echo. The Breakfast With Santa event attracted over 300 people, and the facility met the need and was comfortable. Mark recognized the improvement to the area. Marti Wayland is the new chair of the Children's Committee.

- g. Youth Team. Forty-three students from Signal Crest attended Resurrection Weekend, which is a function of the Holston Conference. We are developing a new Youth Parent Advisory Board to meet monthly. On Feb 3 we will begin Faith In College series. A 30-hour famine will be held to learn about world hunger, with a request for each student to raise \$35. Patrice Glass provided an overview of the Resurrection Weekend event that is held in Pigeon Forge.
- h. Preschool Board. David Tonahill discussed that the fences by both playgrounds are in need of repair and have created a safety concern. Fred Wildman provided an update that the upper playground fence has been fixed, which was the more significant safety concern of the two. The contractor estimate for the repair of the upper playground fence was \$3,500, but Signal Crest staff was able to complete the repair for \$300. The lower playground fence is still in need of repair.
- i. United Methodist Women. Allison Maynard stated that \$250 will be given to purchase gravel to improve the Firewood Ministry work area. Only a small reserve is held by the UMW to start each new year. The UMW donated \$500 to ASP. The UMW is currently celebrating its 150th anniversary.

- j. JOY team. June Bilbrey proceeded with a review that the JOY team meets quarterly. The first meeting for 2019 will be in March, and will be a soup and sandwich format. She noted that the JOY team packs bread every fourth Wednesday. The JOY team is for anyone, any age and is an acronym for (J)ust (O)lder (Y)outh.
- k. Music Ministry . Mark Smith expressed enthusiasm for the Christmas show that was held in December. Fred Wildman discussed that several choir members have offered to sing at the 8:30 Sunday service. We had double the typical attendance at the January 27 8:30 service. Doug Fairbanks discussed that Bill Thornton is considering revisions to the 8:30 service to make it a more distinctive worship service. This includes Communion every Sunday and distinctive music. Rehearsal for those providing music in the 8:30 service is at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays in advance of performing the following Sunday.
- l. Staff-Parish . Doug Fairbanks expressed appreciation for the Signal Crest parsonage at 308 Laurel Street as one of the best he has seen. An open house is being planned for the parsonage. He complimented the quality and skills of the staff at Signal Crest.

Mark Smith discussed that he attended a recent staff meeting, and expressed appreciation for the staff and staff meetings based on that visit.

- m. Congregational Care. Bill Thornton expressed thanks to the Elevated Warmth Vision team as a faithful group of individuals who have been supporting Congregational Care. They are now an extension of the Congregational Care ministry to support those going through need.

Bill discussed that misses cannot happen. Ministers cannot step in if they don't know of a need, so while in one context Loose Lips Sink Ships, for Congregational Care Loose Lips Raise Spirits. A mechanism has been put in place to allow emergency needs to get through to either Rev. Thornton or Rev. Fairbanks during off hours. Bill emphasized the need to overcommunicate on Congregational Care needs.

Paul Jensen then asked if the Church Council agenda could be made available on the SCUMC website when the agenda becomes available. Kristy Stewart contributed that a high-level summary of the agenda will be available on the SCUMC web site. Mark Smith contributed that in addition, after each Council meeting, a summary of the meeting will be published.

Mark discussed that committee reports will still be held in the new agenda-oriented Council meetings, though not every committee will report at every meeting.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Rev. Thornton.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Steve Strickler, Secretary

Signal Crest United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting Attendance
January 27, 2019

Lisa Andrews _____

Garth Beany _____

June Bilbrey *June Bilbrey* _____

Hugh Bullock _____

Tina Close *Tina Close* _____

Tom Cofer *Tom Cofer* _____

Jamie Culbertson _____

Cindy Deere _____

Rebekah Ducote _____

Kelly Eller *K. Eller* _____

Doug Fairbanks *Doug Fairbanks* _____

Mike Garvich *Mike Garvich* _____

Patrice Glass *Patrice Glass* _____

Chrissy Gray _____

Carla Helm _____

Sherry Hubbard *Sherry Hubbard* _____

Paul Jensen *Paul Jensen* _____

Kirby Johnson _____

Colin Johnson _____

Mitchel Johnson _____

Carol Konkel _____

Lynn Lancaster _____

Doranne Lane *Doranne Lane* _____

Allan Ledford _____

Bill Leonard _____

John Maynard, Jr. _____

Anne Pitts *Anne Pitts* _____

Kathy Robertson _____

Kristen Robertson _____

Mark Smith Mark W. Smith

Kristy Stewart Kristy Stewart

Steve Strickler Steve Strickler

David Tonahill David Tonahill

Bill Thornton Bill Thornton

Carole Waller Carole Waller

Marti Wayland Marti Wayland

Please print name and sign

FRED WILKMAN Fred Wilkman

Allison Waynard

Allison Waynard
