

FUMC Church Council Meeting

Agenda

Monday, July 3 6:30 pm

Welcome, devotion ~ Judy

We welcomed: Rev Lee, Mary Hannon, Betty Hill, John Kindred, Kathryn Peiffer, Joy Shaw, Vicky Shields, Marlene Thurman, Judy Stout

We missed Janeen Anderson, Cindy Crawley, Keith Flaming, Susan Harding, Shannon Heusinkveld, Andrea Ortega, Kevin Peffer, Ellen Shepherd, Rick Tessean, Matthew Utley, Barry Wehrle, Mike Westbrook

Prayer concerns ~ Mike Spoon's daughter-in-law Maria (and husband Brian, teenage daughters and mother) who is in the last stages of cancer; Roy Allen (complications from chemo); Janeen Anderson as she continues recovery from a fall. Rev Leslie and Brian have returned from their pilgrimage.

Minutes of May meeting ~ approved

Committee Reports

Trustees ~ Vicky Shields thanked the UM Foundation for providing sufficient funds to do roof repairs.

Agenda Items:

Report from Annual Conference ~ Rev Lee and Mary Hannon and Kevin Peffer

The meeting started with the sad part about churches who were approved for disaffiliation. (See the Bishop's letter on the Council web page for more information.)

Rev Lee, Mary and Kevin are preparing a full report from AC, but there were a few highlights that will affect/interest FUMC:

- Petition MSC #98 "Where All Belong" is a non-binding resolution asking that churches conduct accessibility audits that include 'invisible disabilities.' There are people with sensory processing disabilities, allergies to perfume or scented soaps, etc. The purpose of this resolution is to create awareness, because we can't say 'all are welcome' if we aren't trying to accommodate everyone. This resolution encourages churches to take steps toward inclusion and social justice.
- Petition MSC #99 All lay persons and clergy from churches that have disaffiliated will have to recuse themselves from church leadership roles in the UMC (including those who have been elected as delegates to General Conference 2024).
- Redistricting: We have been part of the conference that has been reorganized (due to lack of funds for seven District Superintendents). We were Peaks/Pike Peak and are now part of the Front Range Colorado District which also includes the former Metro Mile High District (86 churches). Front Range will be under the purview of two District Superintendents—Mark Calhoun (WY DS) will provide supervision of clergy and Jessica Rooks (Front Range DS) will deal with the practical and connectional issues of the churches in the FR district.
- Churches are encouraged to have Green Teams to advocate for creation care—more sustainability regarding climate change.

Stay tuned for the full report!

Trustees ~ (see attachments to the agenda for background information). Vicky noted that development surrounding our 57th & Taft property has significantly increased its value. If we don't sell it now, the value may fall significantly. Trustees moved to initiate the sale of the property, and next steps included discussion with Finance and Church Council. Marlene provided information about how monies from the sale can/cannot be used by the church; that information is attached to these minutes.

Motion from Trustees that Church Council approves Trustees' decision to move forward with the sale of the 57th & Taft property. Motion passed.

There was considerable discussion about the fact that Rev Leslie is not here for such a significant decision. Rev Lee will contact DS Jessica to discuss how (and if possible) to proceed with the sale since the Discipline requires permission by the pastor and the DS.

Next steps also include informing the congregation via pulpit announcement(s) and emails ten days prior to a Church Conference. That Conference is scheduled for July 16 at 11:15 (following Sunday service).

Initial discussion of Listening Meeting findings

Fifty-six people attended the meetings, and Rev Lee gave Judy four Google docs she received.

The purpose of this discussion was to determine the best way to consider the data. Rev Lee suggested that we have a half/full day retreat for Church Council to examine the data, discuss it and ultimately make recommendations for changes.

We want to keep the congregation informed about progress—to let them know we are making plans to address issues (and note satisfaction). And to remind them that because some ideas expressed were exact opposites, everyone won't be happy with the results of our efforts! Several changes have already happened.

Big topics at tonight's meeting were about worship (the Nominations Committee will include a formal worship committee as one of the official committees for 2024.) and locked doors (we hope to have a task force to see if we can agree on some changes).

We will discuss Listening Meeting responses at the Aug meeting, and if it is approved, we hope to have the retreat in Aug in Coy Hall.

Closing Benediction

Micah 6:8: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Next meeting: Aug 7 @ 6:30

Added in the weeks after the meeting:

Since Monday, there has been quite a bit of movement regarding the sale of the 57th & Taft property. As noted in the minutes, we discussed the appropriateness of moving forward with the sale without Rev Leslie's knowledge. Rev Lee has been in contact with the DS (Jessica Rooks) who was quite concerned about the speed with which we want to move. Rev Lee explained the nature of the hurry, and Jessica responded:

'Hi Lee,

This is really helpful, thanks. The urgency makes more sense now, and I think we can work with the church to complete all the steps as quickly as possible. I will send an email today connecting you and JR Casner, the chair of the building and location committee. I'll also explain to him the urgency of the situation.

My Sundays are booked until August 6 or 20, so if the church wants a Sunday morning charge conference, it cannot be until August. If they are willing to have the charge conference on a weeknight, then I am available July 26 or 27. I'm still not sure if I'm comfortable moving forward without Leslie's awareness and blessings on this one - feels odd to sell property while the senior pastor is on renewal leave, but I hate interrupting her time as well. What do you think?'

Those who were at Monday's meeting have continued discussion via email, and steps taken/proposed are:

- Rev Lee has contacted Rev Leslie and she is on board with the sale. She will look over paperwork and give a written confirmation.
- Rev Lee has been in contact with JR Castner (district chair of Building and Location Committee)
- We will announce intention to sell from the pulpit on July 23 and 30 and will include information in weekly emails
- We will hold a Church Conference on Aug 6 with DS Jessica presiding

We are moving quickly, but are being consistent with the requirements set out in the *UM Discipline*. Stay tuned!

Judy