



Church Council Meeting

November 27, 2023

Minutes

Council Members in Attendance: Joe Stobaugh, Emma Williams, Brooke Messer, Lee Wiley, Sadie Smythe, Dana Donahue, Constance Harp, Jillian Bunn, Derek Fuller, Jim Mabile, Thomas Wainscott, Dub Newman, Ann Parker, Joe Brannon, David Tabor, Phillip Youngblood, Lary Hooten and Diane Brooks

Brooke Messer thanked everyone for the huge role they serve in our church. She gave everyone a beautiful picture of our church in gratitude for their service.

Joe Stobaugh thanked Brooke for her leadership and opened the meeting in prayer.

Spiritual Formation: Joe asked everyone to place The Faith We Sing behind the hymnals in the sanctuary and pray for those who will sit in each pew.

Lary Hooten said that the Marks of Fruitfulness have been completed and submitted.

Diane Brooks announced on behalf of the Lay Leaders that a reception honoring Jim Mabile will take place in the Gathering Area after the 11:00 service next Sunday and invited everyone to attend to express our appreciation for his service to our church.

On behalf of Trustees, Lee Wiley reported that the Youth Center floor prep and drywall is completed. Hopefully, everything will be completed by the end of the year. The final schedule will be nailed down soon. Potential delays could occur. Dub Newman provided a Deferred Maintenance Project report. He said the fire system is almost approved. Roof work almost completed. The uneven sidewalk on the WDS entrance needs to be replaced. In January and February, work will take place on the cracked sidewalk panels. Good progress is being made on the lighting. Thomas Wainscott reported that the elevator work should start the second week in January as well as the second floor pipes. Dub announced the rental policy is being reviewed. A group from Perkins is renting space on Friday and Saturday. Thomas said an engineering firm has been retained to check all our equipment for replacement of belts, etc. The Parsonage painting will begin in January.

Joe Brannon reported for Finance that we started the year with a \$360,000 gap but that has shrunk to over \$200,000. Hopefully, 2023 will end well. The final budget for 2024 will be presented at the first of the year.

Joe Stobaugh gave the Pastor's Report sharing that the Stewardship Campaign goal still has not been met. The insurance gap remains. In 2023, we had twenty-three first time givers and pledgers. We will continue to move forward in faith. He said the All Saints Service at UPUMC was beautiful. Charge Conference went well. Colin's Ministry Committee has met several times. He returns from parental leave in mid January. One hundred and forty people attended the Thanksgiving Square Service -twice as many as in the past. Project Transformation Dallas is having a hard time paying their rent. We will use the daily devotional written by Kate Bowler for Advent. He encouraged everyone to attend the memorial service for Ric Scripps on Tuesday. We will have a baptism this Sunday. Annual Conference will meet this Saturday to vote on the budget and five churches disaffiliating. The yearlong process has ended. We need to get the incompatible language out of the Book of Discipline. More churches are leaving in the southwest part of the US. The Russian church has left but the African churches have remained. Our Christmas Celebration will be on December 10 with tree lighting, Live Nativity, and

chili cook-off. We need everyone's help. The In Dulci Jubilo service is on December 11. The Blue Christmas Service offering healing and hope is on December 17. On December 25, we will have Christmas services at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. The 11:00 worship service may be a Christmas service too. The meeting with Greg Giggs has been scheduled for December 14 at 7:00 pm. It may be rescheduled for the 12th. He will report how much we can ask for in our capital campaign as a result of the survey and meetings with top twenty givers. The response rate is fifty-three percent which is within a reasonable range of results. In A Time of Blessing, Joe asked emeritus chairs for their words of wisdom. They shared we need to put our arms around Constance. Everyone should experience one of our committees. It has been a valuable experience. And they appreciate the opportunity. We are in capable hands. They worked with great people. Joe thanked them for their service. He said the Priesthood of All Believers is alive and well at UPUMC. Joe prayed for the blessing of their leadership.

Emma Williams closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Brooks