



Church Council Meeting

April 24, 2023

Minutes

Welcome - Brooke Messer welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Opening Prayer - Joe Stobaugh opened the meeting with prayer.

Spiritual Formation - Joe asked everyone to share what scriptural story describes their life at the moment and what story describes the life of UPUMC.

PPRC Update - Lary Hooten said that Joe will update us regarding the Director of Communications position in his Pastor's report. Dub added that Odis, a fourth custodian, has been hired.

Lay Leader Report - Diane Brooks said the second week of Spring Fellowships were just as successful as the first week in terms of providing a gathering for members to meet newer members and get to know others even better so that when we see one another at church, we have established a connection. She thanked the Council members for participating. She said another opportunity for fellowship is the Generation to Generation, or G2G, this Sunday during the Sunday School hour. She thanked everyone for their Sunday School class participation in January and hoped their Sunday School class will participate this Sunday. She said the purpose is to think of our church as a whole family and to share our lives with others and make meaningful connections. Our hope is that these connections will continue in significant ways. Alan Hamilton will share our history with Operacion Abrigo with video and pictures past and present. Janet Bustin will offer opportunities for mission service. Diane said she looked forward to the Council members joining us. Lastly, she asked to let her know if Council members become aware of any members in need of a Support Ministry meal.

Missions Report - Janet Bustin shared the mission statement and 1Peter 4:10. The Missions Ministry Team includes Janet, Kim Brannon, Phil Bush, Wanda Hooten, Alecia Jenkins, Luke Laney, Dana Manley, George Pearson, Wynn Radford, Nate Stinchcomb, Mary Tabor and Joe Stobaugh (in an advisory capacity). The vision of the Missions Ministry Foundation is the same as the church: know, feed, challenge and love. The Core Partners are Christ Foundry, Operacion Abrigo, Project Transformation and Wesley-Rankin. The Project Partners are Austin Street, Bread Ministry and Lydia Patterson Institute. General Support includes Mad Money Offering, Share the Light and Christmas Offering. Each mission partner will have two co-chairs and one partner shepherd. The launch is planned for May 14 and 21. And there will be quarterly mission focus.

Finance Update - Joe Brannon asked, "How do we close the \$350,00 budget gap?" A special ask to high donors may yield \$150,000. Access to six restricted accounts would close the gap using no more than fifty percent and only at the end of the year. They have not been touched in years. Constance Harp said the total in restricted accounts is \$487,000. The question is, "High donors, are you in for both?" The 2023 proposed budget was approved.

Trustees Update - Regarding the second floor renovation, Lee Wiley said McCaslin Hill is providing drawings. Permit approval is expected in three weeks. Pricing should be received the end of this week or the first of next week. Construction starting in late May. We will receive a timeframe on completion. Thomas Wainscott addressed various security concerns and issues, including the Weekday School. The church engaged DNL who we used before but did not put their recommendations in place. We need to improve security at the church. We need a higher level of monitoring of doors to allow people to enter. We have no burglar alarm system currently. We talked with the WDS and police department to learn what systems we have here and what works. Thomas showed the plastic covering for glass windows and doors designed to slow someone's entrance. We might consider using the plastic on windows and doors closer to the WDS. Our fire alarm system control panel is outdated and it recently failed with the city. We will need a bid

for updating the system. We are looking at all of our options and recommendations. A new panel has already been ordered. The cost numbers should be received in two weeks. Permit approval requires sprinkler system and panel. Most of the cost can be absorbed through the one a half million dollar loan with a twenty-five year payment period. Dub Newman gave an update on the HVAC system. The cooling tower went in on Friday and Saturday and should be finished by the end of this week. Still working on claims for insurance from December freeze. We provided the WDS with new insurance cost and allocation. Their proportionment assessment is twenty percent of net increase or \$2275 per month. This insurance cost will be incorporated into their 2024 tuition. They hired a security guard who is working with security at Hyer in an effort to be more connected with them. We will survey lay, clergy and staff regarding their recommendations on church security. Church Council needs to all be in agreement and unified. We need transparency even though it may not be unanimous.

Pastor's Report - Joe reported that the Easter and Holy Week services turnout was great. Better than last year. We received good feedback, especially regarding the Maundy Thursday service. 268 people attended the Project Transformation luncheon, which was one of three events in the Activity Center that day. The Bishop thanked UPUMC for hosting the installation service. The mental health preaching in the community on April 17 was well received. Early voting started today. The job description for the Director of Communications is almost complete. Emma, Constance and Joe are analyzing the staff positions. The sermon series for April 23 through May 21 is "A Place to Call Home". Mary Jo McCurley preached on April 23 for Senior Sunday. Emma will preach on April 30 for Adult Education. Beth will preach on May 7 and Joe will preach on May 14, Mother's Day, on missions. Mark Pope will preach on May 21. And Pentecost Sunday is May 28 which will include a composition written for our church. We had a baptism yesterday and another is planned for June 7.

Closing Prayer - Emma Williams closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Brooks.