

# Williamsburg United Methodist Church Council Meeting

## Minutes

April 24, 2018

Church Council Attendees: (24 members)

Roy Geiger, Chair; Sylvia Woodcock, Secretary; Rev. Bill Jones, Senior Pastor; Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton, Associate Pastor; Gordon Angles; Cindy Banek; Connie Bland; Randy Casey-Rutland; Andy Glascott; Jim Goldhammer; Art Grant; Marijane Harper; Betsy Harrison; Janet Henke; Terri Morgan; Keith Potter; Donna Potts; Terri Sim; Lou Anne Smith; Clyde Spence; Sue Swadley; Sandy van Leliveld; George White; and Anthony Williams

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chair Roy Geiger.

A devotional on gratitude was given by Betsy Harrison. She concluded with a prayer.

Betsy then gave a report on the first meeting of the Executive Committee which was held March 27, 2018. George White reported on the church's capital issues which are estimated to be around \$1.8 million. A report was given by the SPRC on the status of the work being done to develop job descriptions for the two new staff positions: Director of Children's Ministries and Marketing Director.

The Minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

### **Pastor's Report**

While Rev. Jones is on the Wesley Heritage Trip to England (May 8-16), in place of the regular Wednesday night Bible Study, Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland will present a two-part update on the work of the UMC's Commission on a Way Forward, which is tasked with helping the UMC find a way past its current impasse on issues related to human sexuality.

There have been meetings on church security held at several churches in the Williamsburg area. City police will come into the church building, survey safety issues, and make recommendations. A meeting for our church will be planned for the near future.

Lyman Hubbard is providing the church with video editing equipment with software that can be used to make recordings of church programs and messages that may be displayed on our website. He will have someone from his office come and train staff on how to operate the equipment.

The pastor proposed the establishment of a "Church in the World" committee that could study societal issues such as gun violence and make recommendations to Council as to what actions the church as a whole or as individual members of the congregation could do to respond to such issues. After much discussion, it was decided that the issue would be placed on the Council's June agenda.

Rev. Jones discussed ways that the church could express gratitude to the congregation for the gifts made to the Lenten Offering - \$12,000 this year. He said that members of the congregation need to be thanked more often for their financial and volunteer support of our church's many programs.

### **Finance Committee**

Chair Jim Goldhammer reported on the efforts of the Finance Committee to provide the congregation with information about how each program area spends funds. He noted that funds from the operating budget as well as funds received from Special Offerings and designated giving are tracked by the Finance's Committee. John Tessler of the Finance Committee is heading the effort to meet with each program area and provide a report on how funds are spent. This information will be placed on the church website once this initiative is completed. Terri Morgan stated that it is important for the congregation to know what happens with all funds provided including Special Offerings.

### **Church Treasurer**

Roy gave the report for Ed Daughtrey who was absent. At the end of the first quarter, our revenues and expenditures are "on track" according to our budget. Unpledged contributions are ahead of last year's figures.

### **Trustees**

Chair George White updated Council on the significant efforts the Trustees have taken to resolve our heating/air conditioning problem. A contract has been negotiated to make repairs to our HVAC system that will provide the best long-term solution. The sanctuary will need to be closed until the work is completed. The Trustees are also working to complete a Five -Year Plan by this fall which will address all facility needs they have identified. This plan will be presented to the Council and will detail the significant costs we face to maintain our church buildings and grounds. In an effort to better manage how our facility is used, the Trustees have created a new Facility Use Request Form that will be filled out by each group seeking to use our facility and grounds.

### **Director of Early Childhood Music**

Anthony Williams reported that the recent recital which included choirs from WUMC, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and the Chapel raised \$2,853.00 which will be used for Elliot's Song.

### **Finance**

Chair Jim Goldhammer forwarded the Finance Committee's recommendation that the \$16,000 remaining from the 2017 budget excess of revenues over expenditures be moved to the Operating Reserve Fund and earmarked to help fund the salary of the new Director of Children's Ministry. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

### **SPRC**

Gordon Angles, Chair, said the committee wants to upgrade the recently vacated Facilities Manager's position to full time based on the expanded work duties this position will face with the repair work being outlined in the Trustee's Five-Year Plan. A full-time position, he believes, would enlarge the talent pool. Jim Goldhammer stated that there is \$80,000 in the Operating Reserve Account to cover such situations if needed. After discussion it was the consensus of Council for SPRC to proceed to make this a full-time position and take action to fill this position. SPRC will have the job descriptions for the new Director of Children's Ministry and Marketing Director ready for Council's at the June meeting.

### **Endowment**

Randy Casey Rutland reported that an Endowment application was received from the Youth for their mission trip this summer to England. Normally such requests come first to Council and then are forwarded to Endowment. The youth request is to match funds raised at this Saturday's Shredder Event up to \$3,000. A motion was made, seconded and passed for this request.

### **Strategic Plan**

Art Grant facilitated a discussion as to how we can make our church more welcoming to guests. Together with Sandy van Leliveld, Chair of Welcome & Hospitality, issues were noted regarding how best to track the attendance of guests as well as members at church services and programs. Art noted that the church has a software program to track attendance at church services. The use of this software could be expanded to help us in this endeavor that correlates to an important action step in our strategic Plan. This issue will be included as an item for the June Council meeting agenda.

### **Director of Christian Education and Discipleship**

Cindy Banek reported on the steps she is taking with the Associate Pastor to secure input from the Adult Discipleship Council to develop a unified and integrated adult education program. Goals for this endeavor will be presented to the Church Council June 26, 2018.

### **Education**

Sue Swadley announced that "Kid's Morning Out" has a new Director, Laura Pittman. A new brochure is being created to market the program which is scheduled to begin the week after school starts in September.

### **Communications**

Connie Bland elaborated on updates and additions to the Church website and was thanked for her extensive and helpful work.

### **Music**

Lou Anne Smith commented that the Virginia Choral Society is interested in using the Church building for one of its concerts. She feels that when the Church is open to community groups, this is a good way to attract new members.

### **Worship**

Terri Morgan spoke on plans to enhance worship for young families and children. Videos may be an aid in this regard.

Rev. Jones dismissed the Council with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Woodcock, Secretary