

Williamsburg UMC

Church Council Minutes

February 26, 2019

In attendance:

Terri Sim, John Tressler, Donna Potts, Linda Upshaw, Stephanie Slocum, Janet Henke, Rita Welty, Laura Pittman, Bonnie Knizatko, Sandy van Leliveld, Cindy Banek, Andy Glascott, Jeremy Forrest, Greg Whiteside, Jeff Westbrook, Lou-Anne Smith, Tom Redmond, Meghan Roth Clayton, Connie Bland, Bill Jones, Betsy Harrison, Art Grant, Roy Geiger (Chair) and Terri Morgan (Secretary).

Minutes from the October meeting were approved with one amendment: the sentence about the November 11 church service should say that the service will commemorate the armistice ending World War I.

Connie Bland announced that UMW is celebrating their 150th anniversary. They will be leading us in worship on March 24. UMW is also going to hold a blood drive on Saturday, March 30, and passed around a sign-up sheet. This will be the first blood drive held at our church since 2002.

The council members went around the table and introduced themselves.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met in late January. The banner entrance, the February 2 Council Retreat, a sub-committee for alternative worship and the resignation of Martha Hernandez as Director of Children's Ministries were topics for discussion.

Pastor Reports

Senior Pastor: Bill Jones

Bill's focus was the Lay Leadership Report:

- We need a Council Secretary
- Nate Walkley and Barbara Haynes were added to Finance Committee.
- Sue Swadley and Martha Hernandez have been added to the Kids Morning Out Board
- We still need Congregational Care, Adult Education/Discipleship and Ministries with Young People chairs.

Bill discussed, in a general way, changing the proliferating committees and work areas. He suggests reviewing the way our leadership is structured. Can we consolidate programs or redistribute responsibilities, so we are not working in "silos"?

The Special General Conference in St. Louis this weekend voted 438 to 384 today, in favor of the Traditional Plan instead of the One Church Plan. Bishop Weaver and Warren Harper will bring a report on the conference to this church on March 3.

Associate Pastor: Meghan's report fits into the Strategic Plan discussion

Administrative Reports

The Capital Campaign developed last year will be spearheaded by Betsy Harrison, George White, Donna Potts, Gerald Bullock, Pam Mason (Chair), Art Grant, Roy Geiger.

Roy presented a request from Trustees for a \$100,000 Endowment grant to work on initiatives in the Capital Improvement Plan, which was approved by Council last fall. Terri Morgan asked how the Endowment stands, and Bill Jones vouched that there is, and has been, no substantial change to the Endowment in recent years. Stephanie moved to approve. Betsy seconded. The request passed unanimously and will now be forwarded to the Endowment Committee.

The Capital Campaign Steering Committee also plans to ask Finance for \$10,000 in start-up funds from the Operating Reserve. The funds would be used to develop Campaign videos, print materials and plan events. The Finance Committee has been asked to consider this request at its March meeting.

Treasurer's Report

There is no Treasurer's report from Eddie Daughtry or Wayne Durboraw.

Board of Trustees

Greg Whiteside, representing George White for Trustees, opened the floor for discussion on improvements to the Banner Entrance, sanctuary ceiling repair. No questions were raised.

Early Childhood Music School

Rita Welty for Anthony

This year's carnival was extremely successful, raising approximately \$6,000 profit.

Kids Morning Out: Laura Pittman

Summer and Fall registration is open now, and already at 75-80% capacity. This current school term (as of February) is at 99%. Cindy Banek asked about the number of families represented. There are 52 children, most of whom do not have a sibling in the program.

Finance Committee

WUMC has a \$1,693,000 budget for 2019. Just under \$1,200,000 is pledged so far.

Finance is analyzing designated funds to make sure they are moving into their intended purposes (being spent).

Policies and Procedures manual is being finalized.

John will send out some documents and comments shortly.

Endowment

no report

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Jeremy's report fits into the Strategic Plan discussion.

Strategic Plan: Art Grant

Art provided a history lesson about attendance at WUMC over the last 16 years. Attendance and membership have both dropped dramatically. Pledges have steadily dropped, but drastic shortfall in total pledge dollars did not occur until this year.

Here are reports from various committees on the status of their Strategic Plan initiatives:

Communications

Initiatives included communications to church membership, communication with the community, improved IT and the hiring/installation of Marketing Director.

Connie stated that all of their committee work focuses on the Strategic Plan.

Consolidated WiFi is being installed.

Video equipment has been acquired to stream our worship services

The new method of reporting notices and media information (by Tom) was mentioned and its purposes described.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Jeremy Forrest

Has 3 Strategic Plan Goals:

1. Developing job description/hiring Children's Ministry Director. SPRC is analyzing information from those involved before replacing Martha Hernandez.
2. Developing job description/hiring Marketing and Communications Director. Currently SPRC is working with Tom Redmond to make sure the role and the responsibilities are clear and working well.
3. Review and revise all staff job descriptions for the second time in three years. This second revision will align the job descriptions to the Strategic Plan. This work is just beginning. Jeremy encourages input from all committees as they intersect with staff.

Sandy asked for a description of why Martha's exact position is not simply being refilled. Jeremy, without describing exact difficulties, stated that the job description and exit interviews are being reviewed. The position, possibly with modifications, is likely to be posted in the near future.

Associate Pastor: Meghan Roth Clayton

Goal: unified program of worship services, discipleship and spiritual formation opportunities. Meghan stated that this probably requires a subcommittee/task force.

Council on Ministries with Young People needs to be revived, and probably be part of the above. Fresh Expressions of worship, a UMC initiative, was referenced.

Local Outreach: Stephanie Slocum

Their goal is to be widely recognized in Greater Williamsburg as an Outreach faith community.

To a large extent this is already a matter of fact. We are taking on another Friend in Need, working more closely with the Wesley Foundation and growing another feeding program.

LO has identified seven work areas where they see need for outreach: Education (K-12 and continuing), housing, elder care, incarceration/rehabilitation, veterans, employment.

Global Outreach: Terri Sim

Increasing annually to at least three mission trips:

- Terri Morgan will lead a team to CHHF next week.
- Ken Hook plans to take a CHHF team in October
- Dick Bennett hopes to take a team to Danville for reconstruction after hurricane damage.

Worship Committee: Terri Morgan

One of Worship Committee's Strategic Plan initiatives is to "meet directly with Welcome and Hospitality to help devise 'alternative worship' and other ways to guide visitors into membership/discipleship."

We need help with the creative process. Lou-Anne Smith and Andy Glascott have indicated willingness to work on the project. No lay members of the Worship Committee feel called to serve as part of the alternative worship development team. If the target audience is individuals not already attending this church, we have few specific ideas on how to do this or where to recruit a subcommittee for purpose. Some thoughts include:

- Poll the congregation for interested individuals
- Poll the congregation for ideas
- Look at what other churches are doing
- Host a concurrent service in the Fellowship Hall with different music and visual aids
- Add new elements to the services we already have.

Bill Jones reflected with Council briefly on new member Roger's baptism and membership in the church.

The meeting closed at 8:42 p.m., with a prayer by Bill Jones. He used a Harry Emerson Fosdick's prayer from our Book of Worship.

Next Council Meeting is April 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Morgan