Executive Committee Minutes: September 24, 2019

The following members met at 5:30pm: Bill, Betsy, Anne, Jeremy, John and Roy.

1. Roy introduced Jeffery Westbrook, who chairs the Church in the World Committee. Kelli Mansel-Arbuckle, who is another member of Jeffrey’s committee was in attendance as well. Jeffery discussed how his committee, which was established in last December’s Charge Conference, developed their priorities around the United Methodist Church’s Social principles. He noted the challenges his committee faced during the year following the General Conference in St. Louis. He asked the Executive Committee to provide feedback on how the Church in the World Committee should proceed with its work given the diverse nature of our congregation. Pastor Bill distributed a handout entitled “Church in the World Committee at Williamsburg UMC” to help guide the committee. In the discussion that followed a number of ideas were noted that include:
   a. Focusing on the Social Principles;
   b. Making sure that the committee represents our diverse congregation;
   c. Consider offering forums on the missional priorities that our church is addressing, such as hunger and homelessness, with the assistance of our Local and Global Mission Committees;
   d. Start with issues that are less controversial;
   e. Focus on education and not trying to establish an action position for our church unless there is a clear consensus; and
   f. Make sure that forums or other activities are open to hearing both sides of an issue.

2. It was agreed that Jeffrey would draft a statement of purpose for his committee and email it to the Executive Committee for feedback prior to having the statement presented to Church Council.

3. John provided an update on the work of the Finance Cabinet and Finance Committee in addressing the 2019 revenue shortfall. He and Jim Goldhammer have been meeting with department heads and staff leaders to develop the 2020 budget with a projected decline in revenue. He plans to present a preliminary budget for 2020 to Council at the October Council meeting.

4. Jeremy noted that SPRC is meeting next week on the budget proposal for 2020 SPRC will face with the anticipated decline in revenue and higher staffing costs based on positions added in implementing the Strategic Plan.

5. Roy updated the committee on the Capital Plan which was approved by Council in August. The Capital Campaign Committee has begun the “Quiet Phase” with the development of print and video materials. The “Public Phase” of the campaign will not begin until sometime during the first quarter of 2020.

6. Bill led the closing prayer.

7. The next Executive Committee meeting is set for 5:30 pm on Tuesday, November 26th.