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# Hopewell UMC Council Meeting Minutes

## January 6, 2019

### 6:00pm

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A meeting of Hopewell UMC Council was held at Hopewell UMC on January 6, 2019 at 6pm.

#### **Members Present**

Martha Batten (Chairperson)  
Brian Collins (Lay Leader)  
Delly Dorais (Finance Chairperson)  
Eric Dorais (Church Treasurer)  
Mike Bernhard (SPRC Chairperson)  
Bill Taylor (Trustee Chairperson)  
Nicole Jennings (Youth Ministries Coordinator)  
Alan Russel (Men's Ministry Coordinator)  
Maggie Taylor (Women's Ministry Coordinator, Nurture/Hospitality)  
Don Brown (Pastor)  
Carl Birkel (Financial Secretary)  
Judy White (Membership Secretary, Children's Ministry Coordinator)  
Jessica Collins (Worship Chairperson)  
Ron Fuller (Mission/Outreach)  
Bonita Leedy-Birkel (Visitation/Evangelism)  
Karen Bernhard (Nurture/Hospitality Coordinator)

#### **Members not in attendance**

Roman Jaskin (Vice Chairperson)  
Sally Weaver (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference)  
Tamra Vayhinger (Youth Ministries)  
Tammy Wilcox (Learning Center Representative)

#### **Call to Order/Opening Remarks**

The Council meeting was called to order by Martha Batten.

Martha discussed this year we would begin our meetings with a devotion. Reflecting on today's service and the Day of Epiphany, Martha talked about the wise men and their journey to find Jesus. She read the definition of what it is to be wise and explained that being wise is to be a truth seeker. She commissioned us to be wise men, to be focused together and be committed to showing Jesus to the world. She explained that as leaders, we need to study the Bible, pray, and ask God to lead us.

Don Brown:

Don began with a welcome & thank you to the members of Council. He spoke about the importance of

working together for the church as a whole first and then working for each person's own special group or committee within the church. We are all working together to glorify God through the works of the Hopewell Ministry.

## Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Don Brown.

## Item #1: Purpose of Council

Don Brown:

The main purpose of the Council is to focus on mission, ministry and outreach for the church.

## Item #2: Schedule of Council Meetings

Martha Batten:

Council is not required to meet monthly.

### Task

All Council members should pray about the schedule of meetings.

### Plan

Re-visit this item at the next meeting

## Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2018

### Corrections:

Bonita Leedy-Birkel

#2 under Corrections to November minutes should read as follows...

### 2. Results of Land Use and Expansion Plans

**Church Council asked Trustees to wait until Forward Focus study was finished and we have done that- last month we asked for your prayers on bringing this forward but not to bring it to a vote yet.**

**Motion:** Approve the meeting minutes of 12-2-18 as amended

**Motion By:** Mike Bernhard

**Seconded By:** Brian Collins

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## Item #3: Reports

**Treasurer Report** by Libby DeKrafft

Money Market Account: \$72,382.66

HVAC Fund: \$4135

Checking Account: approx. \$5000

**Worship Committee Report** by Jessica Collins

Jessica Collins asked for help in filling the volunteer spots during worship time. There are several empty spots that need to be filled. She encouraged everyone to try out different areas to find the one that speaks to them.

*Suggestion (Don Brown):* pass around the sign-up book now during the meeting

*Suggestion (Maggie Taylor):* a person should man the book on Sunday mornings and call attention to it to

encourage volunteers

**Action:** sign-up book was circulated among Council members

**Trustee Report** by Bill Taylor

- The Trustees will be contacting the Learning Center (Tammy Wilcox) about participating in the HVAC funding program.

- The Trustees would like the Council to contact the District Superintendent for information about the requirements and process for facility improvements and expansion.

**Motion:** Council will contact District Superintendent for information about requirements and process for facility improvements and expansion

*Discussion:*

*Eric Dorais:* There was a huge list of needs discussed during the Trustee meeting. This discussion brought about the idea of a comprehensive plan for facility improvements.

*Jessica Collins:* concerned about unity of Council and beyond... would like to not move on with building plans until everyone is able to participate

Consensus is needed to move forward

**Vote:** NO consensus

*Discussion:*

Jessica Collins: concerned about transparency for current projects

*Suggestion (Kelly Dorais):* a 15 min quarterly financial report to the congregation after service with the first to be at the end of March 2019

*Suggestion (Libby DeKrafft):* in the past, the Council meeting minutes have been posted on the board in the hallway for all to see

*Discussion:*

*Jessica Collins:* opposed to even exploring until we are better at communicating between the Council and the congregation

*Eric Dorais:* The community is growing right outside our window. It's a missed opportunity if we do nothing.

*Judy White:* concerns about using service time to go over church business

*Libby DeKrafft:* we have to get something started to be able to get people involved and excited

*Ron Fuller:* Demographic study has been done & shown what is needed. There have been 3 building plans in the past with some money raised and nothing happened.

*Question (Brian Collins):* How do we communicate better with the congregation?

*Discussion:*

*Kelly Dorais:* tech struggles for some members of church

*Suggest (Kelly Dorais):* commit to one central communication system and teach anyone who needs help how to use it (ex: Google calendar or church website)

*Suggestion (Brian Collins):* 1. Put information about District process on website. 2. Mail information out.

*Suggestion (Don Brown):* explore all the capabilities of the current website

*Suggestion (Eric Dorais):* use Facebook page to get information out

*Suggestion (Bonita Leedy-Birkel):* email blast

*Suggestion (Jessica Collins):* place a monitor in the hallway with announcements

*Note:* extra monitor is available

## Recap

1. Moving forward with getting information from District Superintendent

2. Ways to communicate with congregation

monitor in hallway

website

Facebook

snail mail

email blast

newsletter

Keeping in mind

-members that are not good with technology

-someone will always say they didn't know what was going on

*Comment (Alan Russell):* We all must have the attitude that we all should be communicating with members. We have to tell everyone, everything we do.

*Comment (Ron Fuller):* Multiple sources of information must be consistent.

*Comment (Don Brown):* Martha Russell gathers information each month for the newsletter.

## Vote

With a commitment to communication, Council arrived at **Consensus**

## Tasks

1. Church will contact District Superintendent for information about process for facility improvements (not assigned to a specific person)

2. Libby DeKrafft will procure a monitor for the hallway.

3. Martha Batten asked all members to give thought to an information technology training program for those who need it.

## Action

Don Brown gave a demonstration of some features of the website and offered a one-on-one tutorial for those who need help

## Mission/Outreach Report by Ron Fuller

In July 2019, Ron Fuller and Don Brown will be attending an area meeting for Zoe Mission in Africa.

Zoe is a mission that takes care of kids who have lost their parents to AIDS. They teach the eldest child of the family how to be entrepreneurs and make money for themselves and their siblings.

## Task

Ron Fuller and Don Brown will try to obtain a video about this mission to bring back and share with the congregation.

## Visitation/Evangelism Report by Bonita Leedy-Birkel

-Lydia's Group will meet Monday January 14<sup>th</sup> 6pm at Coach House

-Will be visiting Connie Helvey and other people on the prayer list

**Staff Parrish Relations Committee Report** by Mike Bernhard

Scheduling accommodations have been made to allow working members to attend.

Next meeting will be Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm at Hopewell UMC.

*SPRC Agenda Item Request (Kelly Dorais):* consider having a child care worker on Wednesday’s to help families who already are or would like to participate in activities

*FYI (Don Brown):* There is a new class for parents with childcare available.

**Financial Secretary Report** by Carl Birkel

Giving statements are in process and will be sent out.

**Women’s Ministry** by Maggie Taylor

Don Brown has put together a new women’s Bible study. The time is still to be determined.

**Hospitality Report** by Karen Bernhard

Volunteers are needed for bereavement helpers

**Other Business**

*Suggestion (Ron Fuller):* visitor/guest registry book in the hallway

**Appreciation**

-The chairs in the Sanctuary were arranged in a very orderly & neat fashion for Sunday’s service. This is a result of the group effort led by Jessica Collins to put together Sunday’s special program.

-Thank you to Martha Batten for the delicious bread she prepared for Sunday.

**Adjournment/Closing Remarks**

The Council meeting was adjourned by Martha Batten with the reminder to give thought to the frequency of future meetings and to “Go in peace and Lord be with you”

**Next Meeting**

**Date and Time** \_\_\_\_\_

*Susan Wilson 1.8.19*

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Susan Wilson, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Prepared

**Draft Approval By Chairperson**

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Martha Batten, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Date of Approval of Minutes By Council**

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