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# DFUMC Church Council Minutes

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Date & Time: April 11, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Conference Call

Pastors: Revs. Dalton Rushing and Blair Setnor

Council: Chair Sandy Kruger, Vice Chair John Copeland, Finance Chair Tom Barefoot, Lay Leader Denise VanLanduyt, Staff-Parish Relations Director Kate Merrihew, Trustees Director Josh Andrews, Connect Team Chair Chris Opstad, Engage Team Chair Michael Black, Grow Team Chair Madeline Mulkey, Worship Team Chair Sybil Davidson, StoryKeeper Karen Horace, and Treasurer Julie Childs

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## Agenda details:

- I. Opening prayer (2 min)
- II. Approval of March meeting minutes. (2 min) – Julie motioned to approve the minutes, Karen Horace seconded, the minutes passed.
- III. Camp 175 – Andy Beech (15 min) – Any joined the meeting and mentioned that he is glad we are discussing this as a group. Dalton has pictures of the Camp as well as some background information and sent those out to the group. Dalton asked about the decision to dissolve the Camp 175 organization. Andy Shared some history: In 1955, the Keystone Sunday School class secured a lease from the Corps for DFUMC. There is no running water, there is no sewer system, the dining hall does have electricity. Daniel stated that the church has property insurance that covers the property. Andy is requesting that the church create a committee that will be responsible for overseeing the property. Andy is willing to run the committee for at least the next 3 years. Dalton suggested a 5 member committee with 3 members being from the church, and the committee will roll up through the Trustees to the council. The lease gets renewed every 10 years and the current lease ends at the end of 2024. Denise suggested that we increase the insurance on the property – especially if it is cheap, we can increase to \$2M or more in coverage. Andy stated that he is willing to pay the additional cost of the insurance so there is no incremental cost to the church. Denise asked about the committee’s responsibility to be physically present at the site. Andy stated that we can include a requirement that some members of the committee will visit the site at least once per quarter. Denise made a motion for the creation of a committee of 5 people, 3 of which will be church members to oversee the property. Kate seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Andy stated that Troop 175 wants to use the camp in June (pending approval by the state of GA).
- IV. Church indoor worship – Dalton (5 min) – Dalton gave a brief update. We are glad that the cameras are working and we are in a good position for next week on 4/18 with 3 entrances. The council thanked Chris Opstad and Janice Yates for their work in check-in, registration, temperature checks, etc. Madeline suggested that we continue to use nametags ongoing, even as the pandemic ends.

- V. Clergy Professional development leave – Kate Merrihew (10 min) – Kate provided a quick update on Dalton’s appointment with us. Dalton will remain with us for a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Blair will also be remaining with us for the upcoming appointment year! Kate reviewed the rules from the book of discipline for clergy professional development leave. Dalton is eligible to receive a month of leave at least every quadrennium. Kate motioned that Dalton receive the month of July for a sabbatical (which is different from a vacation). Dalton and Sandy stated that July is the perfect time for this. Kate Motioned for the July sabbatical to be approved, Denise seconded, and the motion passed.
- VI. Parsonage – Kate Merrihew (10 min) – Kate suggested a study committee for the next steps on the parsonage. As part of this study committee we would need to analyze the needs of the church community and project church membership. The study committee would then work with the church council to share results with the UMC District leadership. Kate motioned to create a study committee. Sybil seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.
- VII. Engage Team Report – Michael Black (10 min) – we are working through the timing for the next steps for the contribution to Breakthru House. Food drives are continuing. The Men’s Bible study is going to conduct the food drive on 4/18. The next food drive is 5/16. Electronics Recycling will take place from 1-4pm on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Wellroot 5K fundraiser will be occurring on Saturday, 5/1 – if you want to participate, you can contact Blair.
- VIII. Connect Team Report – Chris Opstad (10 min) – Chris noted that the connect continues to send out notes to the congregation. Sandy and several other members of the council congratulated Janice Yates for the leadership in creating the Lenten Devotional booklet – this was well received by the congregation.
- IX. Grow Team Report – Madeline Mulkey (10 min) – Madeline described how the Grow team has been meeting. They are working on gifts for the confirmands. Two times per month, the confirmands are getting a note from the larger church body. The Grow team is also working on Preschool Staff appreciation – looking to do some events during preschool team appreciation week during the first week of May. The preschool has also been taking advantage of our Amplify subscription and providing Christian education in the classroom.
- X. Finance – Tom Barefoot (10 min) - Tom provided an update on the financial reports. We want to continue showing the annual budget in the financial reports. Church financials are in a good position. We have pulled the pre-paid pledges into operating at the end of March and are therefore breaking even for the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The preschool is doing well – enrollment is up, the expenses are well managed, and the preschool team will be meeting in April to assign scholarships for the upcoming academic year.
- XI. Investment Committee – Julie Childs (5 min) – Julie gave a quick update on our investments. The history is that we previously were not even able to pay our bills, but now we are in a much better financial position – we have a strong budget and an endowment with more than \$4M in assets. Julie suggested that we form an investment committee that answers to the council, it would be 3 members from the church as well as some ex officio members from the council. The committee would be responsible for overseeing the assets and how they are invested. Julie mentioned that we can provide a report to the congregation on an annual basis for both the endowment and the sycamore sale proceeds. We discussed how the proceeds of the sale of the sycamore property can only be spent with the approval of the larger congregation. Julie motioned that we form an investment committee. Michael Black seconded the motion for the creation of the committee. The council voted and the committee was unanimously approved.
- XII. Public Comment - (10 min)

**XIII.** Old or new business - (5 min)

**XIV.** Closing prayer. (2 min)