
DFUMC Church Council Minutes

Date & Time: January 10, 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

Agenda details:

- I. Opening prayer** – Dalton spoke briefly about the events at the US Capitol building on Jan 6. Dalton gave the opening prayer.
- II. Welcome New Council Members** – Sandy welcomed new council members Kate, Madeline, Karen. Madeline, Karen and Kate introduced themselves. Dalton stated he will send the Future Story out to all church council members.
- III. Approval of December 13th meeting minutes**

Julie Childs motioned to approve the December meeting minutes. Chris Opstad seconded, and the motion passed. Sandy updated the council on the Social Justice and Inclusion team, being established as a mission of the church. Sybil motioned to approve the amendment to the Church Council Guiding Principles to include the Social Justice and Inclusion team. Julie seconded the motion, the motion passed
- IV. Chapel and Sycamore Building Update – Dalton** (*this was discussed as part of Tom's financial update in the next section*)
- V. 2021 Budget and Financial Policies for Vanguard Account –Tom Barefoot.**

Monthly financial update: Tom reminded new members of the council that we typically review our four financial statements each month in this meeting. Tom gave the financial update for the church and for the preschool – both programs are net positive for the calendar year.

Designated accounts: Tom gave the update on our designated accounts; prepaid pledges are moved into operating income on a quarterly basis. Dalton mentioned that for external giving, we have a guiding principle to move those funds to the recipient soon after they are received (e.g., UMCOR, John Lewis fund, etc).

Balance Sheet update: Tom reviewed our statement of financial position and noted that the Sycamore property is still listed as an asset on our balance sheet, we will be updating the balance sheet to reflect the change in assets in future council meetings

Sandy called for a vote to approve the monthly financial updates, and Tom's finance report was approved.

Annual financial reviews: Tom requested approval for using Brooks, McGinnis & Company to conduct annual financial reviews of the church's finances, as they are familiar with the United Methodist Church and Book of Discipline. They also do the auditing for the North Georgia Conference. We expect this to cost ~\$15K this year and ~\$10K in future years. Michael made a motion to approve the use of Brooks, McGinnis & Company for reviewing our financial statements. John Copeland seconded. The motion passed.

2021 Budget: Tom requested approval of the 2021 budget now that the sale of the Sycamore property has been completed. The Budget also includes the Social Justice and Inclusion team. Tom noted that apportionments have decreased for this year. We are projecting to be net positive at the end of 2021. Karen made a motion to approve the 2021 budget, Julie seconded the motion, and the 2021 budget passed anonymously.

Church Council Signatories: Tom requested that the council approve the changes to the Church Council Signatories to reflect the change in church council in the new year. This document outlines who can sign the checks. Chris Opstad motioned to approve the changes to the Signatories document. Karen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Next steps on proceeds of the sale of the Sycamore property – Dalton provided an update on the plan for the proceeds of the sale of the Sycamore property. Tom reviewed the recommendation from Celia Anderson, Vanguard, and Jonathan Clarke that we use an 80/20 asset allocation for the proceeds of the sale of the Sycamore property in a Vanguard account. Julie motioned to approve, John Copeland seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Wells Fargo: Tom moved to close the Wells Fargo account so that we can consolidate our checking accounts to two institutions: Ameris Bank and the United Methodist Credit Union. Tom made a motion to close the Wells Fargo accounts and Julie Childs seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PPP loan forgiveness update – Tom gave an update on the PPP loan. We continue to provide information to the Small Business Administration (SBA) as they ask for information. We provided another batch of payroll history this week and will continue to work with the SBA to finalize loan forgiveness. We believe the loan is likely to be approved but do not know the timeline.

VI. Endowment Report – Julie Childs gave the update on the Endowment accounts. Our endowment operates on a principle whereby we distribute 5% of the account value each year into the designated funds. As expected, all of the 2020 Endowment distribution was sent to the designated recipients. The Taylor scholarship provided \$60,000 in scholarships this year. The other Scholarships have been consolidated into the general scholarship fund. The Endowment committee is working on publicizing the availability of scholarship funds. Julie requested that the council continue to find applicants for the scholarships. Julia Gary’s outreach mission fund has increased in value and we hope to be able to use these funds for missions later this year. Julie is continuing to work with Michael Black from the Engage team on the ongoing strategy for outreach and missions. Michael noted that the money allocated to the MLK service project is expected to be used later in the year.

VII. Connect Team Report – Chris Opstad shared that the Connect team had its first meeting of the year. The connect team is going to establish a liaison for each of the other vision teams, to keep us all connected. Chris has worked with Dalton and church staff to create a strategy for how we communicate to the church for big events (e.g., mailings, calendar magnets, etc). Andy Yates will be starting a “dude ministry,” to get young male adults to connect and grow together. Sandy asked about an updated church directory, and Chris mentioned that this is difficult logistically to take photos in person during pandemic time.

VIII. Preschool Board – Sandy mentioned that we need a new representative from the church council to serve on the preschool council board now that StoryKeeper Jim Wood’s term on the council has ended. Madeline Mulkey mentioned the Grow team had historically been connected to the preschool. Dalton stated he would follow up offline with Madeline and Amy Jackson (current Preschool board chair).

IX. Church Council Governance update

- a. Sandy requested that everyone on Church Council sign the annual church council governance documents and send back to Daniel and/or Tracy
- b. Dalton mentioned that we typically do a church council retreat at the beginning of each year, but this isn’t possible during the pandemic. Dalton is meeting with each of the new council members. Dalton reminded the council that we should continue having tough discussions when they are needed, and that we have a duty to keep conversations confidential within the group (see the confidentiality agreement from church council governance packet).

X. Old or new business

- a. Michael Black gave an update from the Engage Team – we are doing a series of food and book drives as part of a new partnership with Project Transformation. These drives will occur on Jan 17, Feb 7, March 7.
- b. Dalton updated the council that we are not having any in-person events at the church in the month of January due to the pandemic. We will continue to evaluate events as the pandemic progresses.
- c. Michael Black made a call for ideas for engaging the congregation for Easter, assuming many of our events will be online.

XI. Closing prayer. Sandy adjourned the meeting at 4:49pm