
DFUMC Church Council Agenda

Date & Time: March 14, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Conference Call

Pastors: Revs. Dalton Rushing

Council: Chair Sandy Kruger, Vice Chair John Copeland, Finance Chair Tom Barefoot, Staff-Parish Relations Director Kate Merrihew, Trustees Director Josh Andrews, Connect Team Chair Chris Opstad, Grow Team Chair Madeline Mulkey, StoryKeeper Karen Horace, and Treasurer Julie Childs

Agenda details:

I. Opening prayer. (2 min)

Dalton opened the prayer at 3:08pm

II. Approval of February 14th meeting minutes. (2 min) -

We corrected a typo in the February minutes. Kate Merrihew motioned to approve the minutes. Julie Childs seconded, the motion passed, and the minutes were approved.

III. Church in-person events update – Dalton. (5 min)

Dalton gave a brief update. Most of the church staff program staff is in the process of getting their vaccinations scheduled. We are tentatively planning on restarting indoor worship on the 3rd Sunday in April. We are continuing to prioritize Children and Youth programming. We are currently planning to do both the in-person worship as well as the live-streamed online offering at 11am to maintain space for children's morning programming at 9am. We are still working on the in-person programming for the Summer. We will continue to evaluate the options for both indoor and outdoor worship as we go.

IV. Finance Updates –Tom Barefoot. (10 min)

Tom gave the finance update. We now have 3 reports to review monthly since the designated funds are now listed on the balance sheet. The Sycamore sale funds have now been placed into the Vanguard investment account. The PPP loan has been forgiven. \$50K of the total has been deposited back into preschool reserves. On the income statement, we are showing a negative net margin for January and February, but we typically see higher income in March each year. Daniel stated that we have paid Dalton's clergy housing allowance through April so we will not see a payment for the housing allowance in March. Chris Opstad asked about the budget for the vision teams. Currently, each vision team receives the quarter's budget in the last month of the quarter; Daniel will work with Tracy and we are going to make sure the budget is spread equally across all 12

months of the year. The preschool continues to do well financially, and enrollment is full for the current school year.

Tom moved that we accept the reports. Julie and Karen seconded the motion. The financial reports were approved unanimously.

V. Sanctuary Screens proposal – Josh Andrews (10 mins)

Josh thanked the council for approving the Cameras for livestreaming via email on March 3rd. Josh shared the vision for the location of the screens at the front of the sanctuary. We have received 3 bids from different vendors. The screens themselves have a 5-yr warranty, and they are modular, so we can replace individual components whenever needed. The screens are 138 inches wide by 78 inches tall. They will partially cover the organ pipes, but the pipes in that location are purely decorative. We want to remove the decorative arch behind the screen to allow the screen to be flush with the wall. The funding for the screens will come from the special gift and so will not have an impact on general budgeted trustees' funds for the year. Dalton mentioned that we are working to minimize the amount of visual change of installing these screens. We discussed whether it was necessary to remove the decorative pipes and decided this was not necessary. Josh recommended authorization a 20% contingency budget on top of the quote for the vendor so that we can cover any unforeseen costs and barriers. The timeframe for delivery is about 6-7 weeks, the installation itself will occur in one calendar week.

Josh made a motion for the council to approve a budget of \$100,000 (inclusive of screens, installation, and associated infrastructure. Chris Opstad seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Parsonage – Kate Merrihew (10 min)

Kate reviewed the current process for clergy housing. Right now, Dalton and Stacey are living in the North Decatur UMC parsonage, and DFUMC reimburses NDUMC each month. Kate suggested that DFUMC should buy its own parsonage so we can be positioned well for the future. Kate is a real estate appraiser. Kate sent the church council a brief overview of the steps required by the UMC Book of Discipline for buying a parsonage. These steps include forming a study committee, getting approval from the District Superintendent, and conducting a vote during church Charge Conference meeting.

Dalton gave an update about church strategies for parsonages. Parsonages can be good in that owning a physical asset that grows in value helps the financial position of the church. However, the potential for a schism in the UMC denomination as a whole means that many churches are nervous about locking in financial assets into property. Dalton is planning on moving out of the parsonage this year, regardless of what the church council decides. Julie mentioned that previous pastors wanted to own their own houses. Tom stated that previous ministers did not want their houses open to the church and asked what the District is advising at this time. Dalton stated that, given the Decatur real estate market, it will be difficult to budget a housing allowance and have a pastor that lives locally. The new dates for the postponed UMC general conference are Aug 29 – Sept 6, 2022.

VII. Camp 175 (Lake Allatoona) Update – Julie Childs (10 min)

Julie gave an update on the Boy Scout property. The lease that we have is in the name of the church. The Boy Scout Troop just administers the lease on our behalf. 90% of the use of the property is for the scouts. The lease states that the church will also make the property available for outside groups. Andy Beech's team charges \$5 per person to use the property, and each user signs an individual waiver. Julie recommended against forming a committee and maintaining our current relationship with Andy's team. Sandy mentioned that Andy requested that we form an oversight committee that will govern the use of the property. Andy would chair the committee and it would include church members in it also. Josh asked what our overall responsibilities would be if the current arrangement were to change. Chris O mentioned that we need an accountable point person to

manage this on behalf of the church. Sandy will invite Andy Beech to the next church council meeting to answer our questions and establish our pathway forward.

VIII. Engage Team Report –

Julie also gave a brief update on the Julia Gary fund from the endowment committee. This year Julia’s fund generated \$19K and an additional \$25K for missions/general use of the church.

Engage recommended to the endowment committee that we use \$10K for Breakthru House for buying two new houses and then \$3500 to project transformation, an organization that connects college students to younger kids to mentor and encourage reading.

IX. Connect Team Report – Chris Opstad. (10 min)

Chris gave an update on the congregational notes that the connect team is sending. The team just sent the first batch of 200 notecards to congregation members and are receiving positive feedback.

Jason Korzan is starting the “dude ministry” – we recognize that we want to make a special effort to connect with adults with children who have found it difficult to connect in the pandemic.

Chris Opstad is working with Janice Yates on the protocols and logistics for how we use the building for indoor worship (targeting 3rd Sunday in April).

X. Grow Team Report – Madeline Mulkey. (10 min)

Tabled until next month

XI. Public Comment - (10 min)

Sandy expressed thanks for the ongoing work of the staff, especially as we work through the logistics of reopening the building for worship and limited programming. We celebrated the success of the diversity book drive at the preschool. Teacher appreciation week is May 3 – 7. Kate is working on additional ways to show the preschool and church staff appreciation. Most of the church staff is onsite Mondays and Wednesdays.

XII. Old or new business - (5 min)

XIII. Closing prayer. (2 min)

Dalton closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 4:44pm.