



Meeting Name: Decatur First United Methodist Church Council

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2018

Time: 3:00PM-5:00PM

Attendees (12/12 Council Members Present):

Christina Cassidy (Council Chair), Phil Guy (Council Vice Chair), Tracy Frost (Trustees), Karmon Clay (Finance), Tim Edmunds (SPRC), John Beal (Connect), Michael Black (Engage), Dennis Coughlin (Grow), Jeanne Allen (Worship), Elaine Binkley (Lay Leader), Jim Wood (StoryKeeper), Jeff Quesenberry (Treasurer/Secretary). *Dalton Rushing (Senior Pastor), Joya Abrams (Associate Pastor)*

Absent Members: None

Official Opening of Meeting: Ms. Christina Cassidy, Council Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. Rev. Dalton Rushing led the Council in prayer. Meeting was called to order.

Approval of April 8, 2018 Minutes: Ms. Cassidy asked the Council if there were any updates/revisions needed to the April 8, 2018 minutes. No updates or revisions were proposed. *Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Minutes were unanimously approved by the Council.*

Consideration of plan to install new entry system as submitted by Trustees: Tracy Frost provided an overview of the new entry system being proposed by the Trustees and why it is needed. Currently the Church has a significant number of individuals who have keys to the Church building. No log currently exists of who has these keys. Previous attempts to keep a log of all such keys has failed. The new entry system would be electronic and programmable, providing more manageable and easier access to the main Church building. Bids from five (5) companies were received. Selection was narrowed down to Taylor Security and Atlanta Access Control. AAC was determined to be the best option. They provide similar service for other churches in the area and were the only one with web-based ability (allowing staff to provide access from outside the Church to individuals if needed.) Main doors would be rekeyed to allow emergency access if needed. A log of who has these master keys would be maintained going forward. New system would provide a report of who is accessing the Church and when. *Motion was made and seconded to accept AAC as the provider of the new electronic entry system. Unanimously approved by the full Council.*

Master Plan Update provided by Tracy Frost: Ms. Frost provided an in-depth review of the survey responses received from the Congregation. The survey was a success with 186 responses being received. It provides the Council and the Church as a whole with a significant amount of useful information. In particular that (1) a unified campus on the northside of Ponce was very much desired and (2) that there was an overall belief that we should remove the financial burden of the historic properties on Sycamore Street.

It was also clear in the survey that neither master plan as presented was considered by the Congregation to be the “best” option for the Church. More work was needed before a final “master plan” could be presented to the full Church for approval. Concerns about parking and debt/cash flow were evident in many responses, but overall the respondents supported the process and our moving forward. Less clear was what the Congregation wished to do with the Chapel and the Preschool/CMO. More work in providing information to the Congregation on these two items was clearly needed. *General questions were raised by the Council. Recommendation was made that we share the finding with the full Church as the earliest possible date. Motion was made and seconded. Unanimously approved by the full Council.*



Discuss the draft Guiding Principles led by Chair Christina Cassidy: Ms. Cassidy reviewed where we were on completion of the Guiding Principles for the Council. Various questions were raised about the changes that she was recommending for incorporation into the Principles. Responses to these questions were satisfactory to all Council members. Question was raised on whether there were any other changes needed. ***Recommendation was made that we accept the Guiding Principles as presented. Motion was made and seconded. Unanimously approved by the full Council.***

Meeting was closed with a prayer.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2018, from 3:00PM-5:00PM, at the church.

These minutes are submitted by Jeff Quesenberry, Committee Treasurer/Secretary, for Church Council approval at the next Council meeting on Sunday, June 9, 2018.