

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting
January 17, 2010

In attendance: Pastor Bobby Ellisor, Chairman Jim Young, Denny Mangum, Kevin Shular, Brill Harris, Edna Sherrow, Karen Baker, Sandi Sears, Jackie Jeffers, Judy Mastromonico, Ginnie Newsom, Ann Hanson, Sarah Schultz, Laura Pennington, Matt Hull, Shannon Hull, Laura Busch, Christa Johnson, Carolyn Villar, Wayne Kuhn, Bill Rivard, Bob Matthews and Sarah Craig as Secretary.

The meeting began at 3:32 pm.

Chairman Jim Young welcomed all to the first meeting of 2010. He stated that the main purpose of this meeting was to get to know each other. Thanked everyone for attending.

Roll Call: Not in attendance – Lisa Brown, John Bostick, Bob Horton, Marie Marshall, Steve Milz, Gary Newsom, Lorene Stanford, Nancy Watson.

Jim Young distributed the agenda.

Jim asked for council to confirm Denny Mangum as Church Treasurer if they were willing. We are required to have a church treasurer and business administrator/financial secretary. Karen Baker moved to elect Denny Mangum as Church Treasurer for 2010. Wayne Kuhn seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion approved.

Jim offered copies of the Church Council guidelines to the members. He then shared a synopsis of the guidelines and referred all members to the Book of Discipline.

Church Council must meet quarterly. Jim plans to meet every 2 months, and more if it is needed. All members are expected to attend meetings, and if unable, to send a representative from their committee. Also, please be on time.

Minutes of the meeting will be taken and forwarded by email. Jim confirmed that all but one member has email. He asked that when the minutes are received, that time be taken to review them.

All group meetings are open meetings, with the exception of Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meetings. Visitors are expected and encouraged.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting.
 - a. Sarah Craig read the minutes of the last meeting. Noted that Wayne Kuhn and Edna Sherrow need to be added to attendance. Bill Harris moved to accept the minutes with corrections noted, Denny Mangum seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes accepted as corrected.
2. Sanctuary Enhancements –
 - a. Denny reviewed an excerpt from past council notes regarding the sanctuary enhancement.
 - b. Jim Young will review this issue with the new Finance Chairperson and discuss the fund raising campaign.
 - c. Pastor Bobby Ellisor reminded Council that the proposed church renovations have been posted on the Trinity website.
 - d. Edna Sherrow asked that confirmation be made of the existing account code for people to make donations.

3. Review of Apportionments paid in 2009.
 - a. Trinity paid \$95000 or 84.15% of apportionments.
 - b. In addition, contributions of over \$11,000 were made to other external organizations.
 - c. Total external giving last year was \$118,544.00
 - d. Edna asked if there would be a year-end giving report available. Jackie affirmed that there would be.
4. Copies of the simplified 2010 budget were placed in the Narthex.

Jim asked if there was any other old business. Not at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Edna Sherrow asked that the newsletter be published earlier each month. Sarah Craig will move the deadline for the newsletter back 1 week.
- Jim Young asked all ministry leaders to please send calendar dates for 2010 to Sarah Craig within 2 weeks.
- All ideas for the 50th Anniversary Celebration within 2 weeks. Shannon Hull shared that a committee was formed last year for the 50th Anniversary celebration. Sarah Craig will send the list of those committee members to Jim Young.
- Pastor Bobby led a discussion regarding the Young Adult ministry. This is a large gap in our church. To do nothing about it will hurt Trinity down the road. We have a young adult luncheon next Sunday. Age range 25-45. The idea is to engage in conversation and get feedback about what the church can do.
- Jim Young asked for comments. No comments.
- Pastor Bobby would like to pursue better communication between the Church Council and the congregation.
 - Willing to let council stand up at the beginning of the services to share any announcements.
 - Karen Baker reminded the group of the brochure that has all pertinent information for people – but it is hard to get it in anyone’s hands. Hospitality would like to work on brochure stands and a welcome table.
 - Ann Hanson said there are project folders in the attic.
 - Sandi Sears asked if the website is on our bulletin – yes, it is on the front.
 - Denny Mangum agreed that 3-5 minutes at the beginning of the services would be a good idea.
 - Karen suggested that we be intentional about leaving copies of the Church Council minutes out for the congregation, and tell people where they are.
- Jim Young would like to see improved Council visibility into income and expenditures (without micro management). When committees bring finances to us to approve, those committees should make sure all action is taken to do a thorough job. Council should not feel the need to dig in and try to start from scratch. Pastor Bobby asked what information Council would like to see come out of Finance Meetings.
 - Sandi Sears suggested more analysis, better breakdown.
 - Edna Sherrow suggested the framework of the simplified budget be posted on the website.

- Denny Mangum asked for monthly financial health of Trinity information.
- Ann Hanson would like to see status of membership information.
- Pastor Bobby would like to install the new church officers on January 31st at the 11:00 service.
- Pastor Bobby shared attendance information for last year.
 - The 8:30 and 11:00 services are tracking about the same each week. Unfortunately, last year, we had 16 deaths within the congregation.
 - Near the end of 2008, we made a shift in the way we conducted the 9:45 service. The 9:45 service has grown the most rapidly. We are starting to slip some in 8:30 and 11:00 services.
 - Believes 2 main reasons are deaths and moves to the 9:45 service.
 - Thank you to Shannon, Karen, Angie and all the folks working on the 9:45 service.
- Pastor Bobby shared an update on Finances from 2009.
 - We paid \$95,000 or 84% of our apportionments last year. In the past, TUMC has been a church committed to 100% of apportionments.
 - In 2007, there was an agreement to back up 30%. We committed 70% for 2008.
 - At the end of 2008, we had paid over 70%.
 - In 2009, we were up 13% over 2008 in apportionment payments.
 - Apportionments are now called “Connectional Mission Giving”.
 - The apportionments for 2010 are \$120,000. The council committed to 10% of the general operating budget for 2010. This figure came out to approximately \$68,000 of the \$120,000.
 - In 2009, \$119,000 was paid – this far exceeds the goal of \$68,000.
 - In 2009, we committed to 38%, and ended up paying 84%.
 - We are hopeful that we can exceed the 84% mark this year.
 - 2009 was a tough year financially, and the congregation was still very faithful.
 - In 2009, 95% of the anticipated income was received.
 - This year, the 2010 budget is built on the presumption that we will receive 95% of pledges, not 100%.
 - We are finding that people want to know 2 things:
 - How are we doing based on history? And
 - What is the health of the line items?
- Priorities this year for the Pastor.
 - Compassion and Care – clergy to do better job staying connected to our homebound and nursing home congregation.
 - Young Families outreach – Trinity is growing older. We need to have this gap filled for natural movement into leadership positions.
 - We need to work on young families, while still paying attention to the people who have made Trinity what it is right now.
- Jackie Jeffers thanked everyone for their help and understanding this year. Trinity did very well financially in 2009.
- Kevin Shular reminded everyone about the Great Night of Methodist Singing on January 31st. He is working on the Easter Cantata. There will be another Benefit Concert for the Children in Crisis center.
- Matt Hull thanked everyone for their support of the Youth Group.

- Shannon Hull offered praises to God for the plans he has for TUMC in 2010.
- Judy Mastromonico stated that she was open to suggestions for the preschool to help engage the parents and school in the life of Trinity.
- Sandi Sears asked if the council could have the agenda before the next meeting.
- Bill Harris – Missions:
 - SIFAT – a trip is planned to tour SIFAT for the last Friday in February, February 26th and 27th. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
 - On the 3rd Sunday in April, Chaplain John Lennon of the Good News Prison Ministry will be here to speak to the UMM.
 - June 19th is the scheduled date for the Ecuador trip. Sarah Schultz will also be attending to teach Bible School!
 - On the 4th Sunday in September, we have some SIFAT members coming to visit with the UMM.

No additional business. The meeting was closed with prayer at 5:01 pm.