

Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
March 27, 2017, Meeting

**Call to Community**

Brenda Colley, Church Council Steward, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Brenda presented a Lenten reflection on God's love.

**Call to Christian Conversation**

■ **Trustees** – Gwen Turbeville, Steward

- Repairs have been made to the heating system.
- Finishing Jewett-Bass Hall is a priority.
- Safety upgrades and maintenance have been done throughout the buildings.
- Harold Adams, Creation Care Team member, reviewed a proposal for the installation of solar panels at Mt. Pisgah.
  - All costs of the project will be covered through separate fundraising.
  - Congregational awareness and an opportunity to contribute to the project are important.
  - The proposal will be presented to the congregation during the Sunday School hour on April 23, 2017.

Motion: Approve moving forward with the solar panel proposal, contingent upon a dialogue with the congregation and approval by the Trustees Branch.

***Motion approved unanimously***



■ **Finance** – Chuck Saunders, Steward, and Melissa Holmes, Business Manager

- Through February 2017, the Ministry Fund revenue exceeded budget by \$11,914, due in part to the timing of some donations and a gift of stock.
- The Mortgage and Maintenance Fund revenue exceeded budget by \$6,209. There is a six-month mortgage reserve.
- Interest rates for the cash accounts are being reviewed.
- Staff-Parish Relations Branch has revised its 2017 budget, lowering it to reflect upcoming staff changes.
- Brenda Colley read a communication from Bob Stowell, Church Historian, concerning a new pictorial church directory.

Motion: Approve Bob Stowell's moving ahead with publicizing, gauging congregational interest, and recruiting volunteers, with the goal of producing a new pictorial church directory.

***Motion approved unanimously***



■ **Stewardship** – Elizabeth Farrell, Steward

- Through February 2017, 171 pledges totaling \$561,888 have been made to the Ministry Fund, 72% of the target.
- Through the same date, 127 pledges totaling \$212,776 have been made to the Mortgage and Maintenance Fund, 96% of the target.
- The percentages of pledged amounts received through February for both Ministry and Mortgage and Maintenance Funds exceeded those for the same period of 2016.
- Additional options for giving are being explored.
- “Defying Gravity” is the theme for 2018 pledging and giving.

■ **Membership** – Barbara Hurt, Database Manager

- Mt. Pisgah has 1,300 members on roll, 400 of whom attend with some regularity
- Those attending the contemporary service will be encouraged to record their attendance on the form attached to the bulletin.
- Members who live in the area and are not attending need to be invited back. Members who have moved away need to be contacted about remaining on the church rolls. Mary Ellin Scarberry and Barbara Hurt will draft letters to be sent to these two groups.
- The Welcoming Team, which reaches out to visitors, is in need of volunteers and review.
- The member profile needs to be updated. Barbara Hurt will contact Branches for their input.

■ **Staff-Parish Relations** – Kim Bedell on behalf of Lisa Oakley, Steward

- The goals for 2017 were shared.
- Branch Stewards are encouraged to provide feedback concerning their staff support needs as Staff-Parish continues the staff structural analysis.

■ **Nominations and Leadership Development** – Kerry Thomas, Steward

A class on spiritual gifts will be offered later this year to the congregation. Kerry Thomas will lead the class.

■ **Missions** – Sharon Macauley, Co-Steward

- Fifty-five congregation members have committed to the Day of Service.
- A donation of \$5.00 will purchase a t-shirt for one of the youth going on the Pittsburgh mission trip this summer.

■ **Youth/Young Adult Ministries** – Amy Crisp, Director

- The youth have raised half of the funds needed for the mission trip to Pittsburgh. The congregation was thanked for its generosity and support of the youth's fundraising efforts.
- Plans are being made to move fundraising efforts into the community.

■ **Vision Council** – Bob Cooper, Steward

- Vision Council met with staff and other church leaders in February to share ideas and plan.
- Potential projects for 2017 were discussed, including a rummage sale, a concert event, teacher blessing, and starting a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group at Mt. Pisgah.

**Upcoming Events**

April 8 – Churchwide Day of Service, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

April 9 – Celebration lunch, 12:15 p.m. in CFLC

April 15 – May/June newsletter deadline. Send information to William Marriott.

April 16 – Easter Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. in CFLC

May 6 – Plant sale, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Rain date May 13)

**Call to Christian Service**

Brenda Colley reminded Stewards to submit Branch goals for 2017 if they have not already done so.

**Pastors' Comments** – Bob Cooper

- From April 2-8, 2017, the Virginia Conference will participate in Praying Our Way Forward, a week of intentional prayer for the mission of the United Methodist Church and for the work of the Commission on A Way Forward.
- Dave Nuckols, member of the Commission on A Way Forward, will present an update on the Commission's work at Centenary UMC on April 11, 2017.

- As leaders of Mt. Pisgah, Church Council members have a responsibility to lift up hope, being faith-fueled in their optimism and response. Mt. Pisgah should celebrate when good things happen and look forward, assured of God's love and guidance.

### **Thanks/Celebration/Recognition**

- Mt. Pisgah's team placed second in the Westchester Shamrock 5K and Kids 1K Fun Run. Mt. Pisgah received \$500 for its participation.
- Kay Adams and her team of volunteers were commended for the Spring Tea-ara.
- Brenda Sizer was recognized as the new Steward of the Worship Arts and Music Branch.
- Rev. Anita Mays was thanked for sharing her Cambodian mission experience through a recent presentation. Anita expressed her appreciation for the congregation's support.

Pastor Bob closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2017,  
at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 107/109**

Minutes prepared by Jayne Shultz, Church Council Secretary