

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

Call to Community

Brenda Colley, Church Council Steward, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The theme of the reflection was knowing your “why” gives the “what” greater impact.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer requests were shared by Council members.

Call to Christian Conversation

■ **Stewardship** – Elizabeth Farrell, Steward

- Through November 26, 2017, the 2018 Ministry Fund has received 138 pledges totaling \$505,554.
- Through November 26, 2017, the 2018 Mortgage and Maintenance Fund has received 109 pledges totaling \$172,774.
- Givers who pledged for 2017 but have not done so for 2018 will be contacted.
- Year-end giving letters will be mailed.
- Giving options are available.

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

- Through October 2017, income is \$34,942 below budgeted amount.
- Through October 2017, expenses are below budgeted amounts.
- The maintenance portion of the Mortgage and Maintenance Fund has received \$25,625.
- A six-month mortgage fund reserve is being maintained.
- A year-end surplus in the Ministry Fund is anticipated.

Motion: Finance recommends that if there is a surplus for 2017, the first \$3,000 would go toward the rainy day reserve to restore it to \$50,000 after it was used to pay for the 2016 audit. If there is additional surplus, it will go toward our 2017 apportionments until 100% has been paid.

Motion approved unanimously



- The 2018 proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Motion: Staff-Parish Relations is reducing its budget request for 2018 to \$419,500 and requests that the \$9,000 reduction go to Connectional Support.

Motion approved unanimously



Motion: Approve 2018 Ministry budget of \$750,000 as recommended by Finance Branch with Staff-Parish Relations motion. Any surplus in 2018 will go toward apportionments until 100% is paid.

Motion approved unanimously



Motion: Approve 2018 Mortgage and Maintenance budget of \$221,748 (Mortgage - \$171,748; Maintenance - \$50,000) as recommended by Finance Branch.

Motion approved unanimously



▪ **Trustees – Gwen Turbeville, Steward**

- The dead trees along Jewett-Bass parking lot will be removed on December 16 and be replaced by hollies.
- Heating system repairs are being made.
- The Jewett-Bass Future committee met and determined that additional research is needed before the town hall meetings.
 - The meetings will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, during the Sunday School hour in the sanctuary and Sunday, February 18, 2018, at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.
 - A church conference will be requested for Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.
 - The committee recommends the use of paper ballots and a 10-point spread in the final tally to determine the future of Jewett-Bass or the need for continued dialogue.
- Congregational input on security concerns will be requested in 2018.

▪ **Other Reports**

- Charge Conference – Pastor Bob Cooper, Elizabeth Farrell
 - A Mt. Pisgah Charge Conference was held on November 12, 2017, with eight other churches.

- Mt. Pisgah’s presentation to the group addressed the questions: 1) How do you define a disciple of Jesus Christ? and 2) What is the relationship between a disciple and the Gospel? Responses to the questions were compiled from suggestions offered by Church Council and other congregation members.
 - Our purpose statement was also shared with the group: We Celebrate LIFE.
 - Vision 2020 focus areas were presented:
 - Missions – fewer but larger mission projects emphasizing relationships and transformation.
 - Fellowship/Community – sharing of faith stories by congregation members to facilitate inviting others to worship; encourage off-site meetings of small groups
 - Small Groups – identify a coordinator for small groups; multi-group simultaneous studies.
- 2017 Branch Accomplishments – Branch Steward highlights from 2017

Children’s Ministry – Kay Adams, Director of Children’s Ministries

- In addition to special events/projects, Sunday School and KidzJam are on-going ministries.
- Families and other volunteers continued ministries while staff positions were vacant.
- Children’s Ministry looks forward to opportunities to engage with other church groups and the community.

Communications – Mary Ellin Scarberry, Steward

- Day of Service was featured in the newspaper.
- Activity fliers were distributed at community events.
- Message board on sign is updated regularly.

Lay Leadership – Alan Bedell and Mac Deacon, Lay Leaders

- Staff changes were challenging, but volunteers kept the 10:45 service going.
- A team of volunteers at the 8:15 service is opening and readying the church for Sunday services, replacing Jim and Sally Carpenter, who served for over 10 years.

Worship Arts and Music – Brenda Sizer, Steward

- Branch is working on ways to make worship more meaningful.
- Sermons are available on church website.
- A new computer was purchased for the sanctuary.
- Youth are more involved in worship.

Nominations and Leadership Development – Kerry Thomas, Steward

- Leadership positions for 2018 have largely been filled.
- Cards are being written to outgoing and incoming church leaders.

- Leadership development will be emphasized more.
- “Serving from the Heart” classes will begin in February.

Preschool – Sheryl Irby, Steward

- Enrollment has improved and is higher than anticipated.
- MOPS should prove to be a fruitful relationship for the Preschool.

Staff-Parish Relations – Lisa Oakley, Steward

- Staff restructuring was done.
- New staff members were hired.
- Goals/objectives for staff members were identified based on Vision 202 focus areas.
- Incomplete payroll report issue with IRS resolved without penalty.
- PowerChurch integrated software was installed.
- Check scanner installed to facilitate timely deposits.

Trustees – Gwen Turbeville, Steward

- Trustees focused on three areas: safety, cost saving efforts, and beautification.
- Safety: new exit signs with back-up emergency lighting installed; investigating safety/security measures for Sunday mornings.
- Cost saving efforts: LED lights have replaced screw-type bulbs in sanctuary, CFLC, Jewett-Bass Hall, and in some exterior fixtures.
- Beautification: sidewalks were power washed; handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the chapel were paved; CFLC carpeting will be cleaned more frequently.

Stewardship – Elizabeth Farrell, Steward

- Branch will continue the stewardship process to help the church meet its operational expenses and fund its work.
- Financial Peace University will be offered again in 2018.

Scouts – David Irby, Scout Liaison

- 100 boys are currently involved in Cub Scouts.
- 60 boys participate in the Boy Scout troop that meets on Monday, and 30-35 boys are active in the Boy Scout troop that meets on Tuesday.
- Girls’ dens will be added to the Cub Scouts.
- A number of boys have achieved Eagle Scout rank.

Details of 2017 Branch Accomplishments are available.

Upcoming Events

December 2 – Angel Breakfast, 9:00 a.m., CFLC

December 3 – Church Conference, 12:15 p.m., CFLC

December 5 – Richmond Concert Band, 7:00 p.m., CFLC.
December 10 – Christmas Concert, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Pastor's Comments – Bob Cooper

Richmond District Conference and Leadership Training event will be January 7, 2018.
Additional information will be provided.

Pastor Bob thanked Brenda Colley, Church Council Steward, and Jayne Shultz, Church Council Secretary, for their service during the past year.

Thanks/Celebration/Recognition

Outgoing members of Church Council were recognized: Reece Barefoot, Alan and Kim Bedell, David Irby, Sarah Johnson, Lisa Oakley, and Gwen Turbeville.

Brenda Colley extended best wishes to outgoing members and to members who will remain on Council in 2018.

Pastor Bob closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2018,
at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 107/109**

Minutes prepared by Jayne Shultz, Church Council Secretary