

Greensboro First United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting  
February 11, 2020

Shannon Osborne called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Those in attendance were Rodney Moore, Yvonne Moore, Kim Scherer, Ann Maddox, Gayle Eicher, Larry Bowers, Vickie Jenkins, Shannon Osborne, Jim Whitaker, Gerry Sykora, Kathy Cawthon, Mike Morgan, Dennis Barlow, Jackson Mitchell and Matt Stewart.

Those not present were Jeannette Burns, Jenny Bonner, Judy Frank and Linda Gates.

Larry Bowers gave an excellent devotion on the topic "Fear Not." He spoke of the fact that fear confronts us in some manner nearly every day. Sometimes we can be immobilized by our fear, but God doesn't want us to live that way. Scriptures tell us "Don't be afraid," "Fear not," and "Be anxious for nothing." Why are we still so anxious? Why don't we heed those words? We are constantly being bombarded by fear in messages every day and can even find ourselves transferring our fear to others. We, as Christians, have ways to bring us comfort. We have words to hymns, comfort in the Bible, our church, our pastors, etc. Larry summed up the devotion with a quote from The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel... "Everything will be alright in the end, and if it's not alright, it's not the end!"

Pastor Matt Stewart led us in an opening prayer.

Shannon called for approval of the Minutes from the December 10, 2019, Church Council meeting. There was one correction noted as to the day of the week for the Parsonage Open House. Ann Maddox made a motion to approve the Minutes as written with the correction. Jim Whitaker seconded the motion and the motion to approve passed unanimously.

Shannon sent an email to all Council members with links to the "Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace" as well as a reprint of Bishop Sue's podcast on the subject. Pastor Mike gave a short review of the current status. He and Pastor Matt will be holding an information session open to all on Sunday, February 16, from 4-6 p.m. at our South Campus and on Sunday, February 3, at our North Campus. The content of the session will be archived and put on the church website for viewing by those who could not attend. There will also be a Tri-District meeting on March 22, at 3 p.m. at Madison FUMC on this subject. Shannon encouraged all of us to pray about this, to attend the meetings this month to get as much information as we can, and to be very thoughtful about what we say to others.

### **Pastor Matt spoke to us about our Ministry and Future Focus.**

He reminded us that the Church Council is the group in the church who prayerfully sets the vision for our church and makes the decisions as to how we plan to get there. His points were:

1. We would use our time as a Church Council to also be looking forward and not just receiving reports of what has already happened.
2. We would provide support for the Ministry Teams who are carrying out our vision.
3. We would remember our purpose as a church is to DO ministry and seek what God is calling us to do in our ministry.

As a group, we should be **Future Focused and Ministry Driven**.

### **Vickie Jenkins gave a brief report on a new Visioning/Planning Committee.**

Vickie will chair the Visioning/Planning Committee. This will be a sub-committee of the Church Council and its members will be a broad cross-section of the church. It will be comprised of five to seven people. This committee has not yet met, but she hopes to have the first meeting at the end of February or the first of March. There will not be a lot of meetings. Her goals for this committee are as follows:

- Establish a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats)
- Gather a list of key people to talk to
- Gather information between the first and second meetings
- Develop real strategic issues and keep it simple. Develop three or four, at most, major goals with the strategies to get there

Vickie would give updates to the pastors and to Shannon. The final proposal would come to the Church Council for approval. Her target date to bring the proposal to the Church Council is June. Her verse for inspiration is Mark 4:38 "Jesus calms the storm." The committee will listen for God's direction.

### **Ann Maddox gave the report for the Finance Committee.**

Ann handed out a summary of the 2019 budget and the approved 2020 Budget for comparison. Her main points in the report were:

- This week the church made a \$100K payment on our short-term note. Three payments have been made since September and have only \$100K remaining on the short-term note.
- Income for January is good. The church's expenses were budgeted at \$115K and the actual expenses were \$105K.
- Our cash position remains strong, but revenue is down.

### **Gayle Eicher gave the report for the Fellowship Events Committee.**

The Chili Cook Off had lots of positive feedback. Everyone loved it. The results of the survey that was sent out to the congregation were as follows:

- Fifty-two people responded to the survey online and 25 responded by hard copy.
- Of the 77 who responded, the most popular ideas for future events were:

1. Italian Dinner
  2. Ice Cream Social
  3. Culinary Dining Experience put on by Culinary students at the High School
  4. A smart-phone class
- No one answered the survey who had small children at home.
  - 68% of those responded said they would pay \$10 for a meal.
  - Gayle proposed that beginning in March, we change the cost to \$8 per person and \$20 maximum for a family of three or more. Gayle made a motion to accept the proposal and Ann Maddox seconded. Shannon called for a vote and the motion passed with no objections.

**Rodney Moore gave the report for the SPRC Committee.**

- We have hired Elisa Reece as Director of Student and Faith Development Ministries. She will begin on Tuesday, February 18, and her main priority will be to focus on Youth. She will also be overseeing faith development of all ages with Sunday School and Small Groups. Her office will be at South Campus.
- Most of our current focus is on the music ministries in the church. Rodney remarked on how outstanding the choir was last week. A donor within our church has provided a grant to fund two music interns. Our first new intern has started. His name is William Shramm and he will be the tenor section leader. We are blessed to have Savannah as our intern and section leader for Sopranos and are currently in the interview process for an intern for our Bass section.
- We have formed a small committee to take the lead on finding our next Director of Music Ministries. We must get it right this time! This committee has met and developed a list of the character traits and musical experience of the ideal person we are looking for. They have committed to staying within the budget for this position.
- Our approach for this hire will be strictly networking. The first wave of letters to music directors in surrounding areas and states went out this Monday.
- The interview process will be to first interview applicants by phone. Next, an interview will be scheduled with the small committee for those selected, and for the final candidates an interview will be held with the Church Staff, the Choir and the Church Council. There will be a lot of church involvement in the process.

Rodney told us that Martha Braswell has been an absolute delight to work with and has been working for countless hours to guide and support us in our search for the right candidate for our church.

**Jim Whitaker gave the report for Missions as follows:**

- In 2019 the Missions Committee was able to support seventeen different organizations. (\$17K to International organizations, \$6300 to National organizations and \$18K to Local organizations). \$ 19,400 came from the general budget and the balance came from proceeds from the garage sale.

- Helping Hands (TJ Maddox) does about one project a month
- The Missions committee members donate lots of labor to both the Board of Trustees for our church and to Atlas Ministries. They want us to know that they are also available to set up tables, etc., for our social events.
- The Garage Sale is a service to the community as well as a fundraiser. \$42K was raised last year. There are plans to have a garage sale in 2020. Last year those who worked on the garage sale worked over 4000 hours and drove an excess of 3700 miles! They are looking for help with the 2020 Garage Sale, as well as a lead person.
- The Committee made one Early Response trip in 2019. There will be an Early Response training session on March 7.

### **Vickie Jenkins gave the Trustees report as follows:**

#### Overview:

1. We have 42 HVAC units
2. The Parsonage was established (Torbert/Lewis House – bought by the church.)
3. Evans House (church office) was donated to the church – cannot be sold.

Financial – Trustees came in under budget for 2019 including the development of the Parsonage – due to much hard work from members of the Trustees and Missions Committee.

#### Major Accomplishments in 2019:

1. Fire Alarm System installed in North Campus sanctuary.
2. Septic System lift pump replaced at South Campus.
3. Transitioned from Siemens and multiple other companies into two companies at a major savings.
4. Rebuilt the handicap ramp at North Campus.
5. Many other minor projects completed to reduce expenses.
6. Security cameras installed at both campuses (completed in January 2020.)

#### 2020 Focus:

1. Review and update Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
2. Re-bid HVAC vendors
3. Landscape (both campuses need major work done)

#### Projects within 5 years:

1. Parsonage (siding or paint, windows replaced, foundation repaired)
2. Roof – South Campus
3. Asphalt parking lots – both Campuses

Jeannette Burns is the new Vice Chair of Board of Trustees. She will be taking over as Chair in June with Vickie staying on Trustees through the end of the year.

**Kim Scherer** reminded us that this Sunday will be Membership Sunday and people will join at both services.

**Dennis Barlow** reported that the Methodist Men will be holding their breakfast meeting this Thursday, February 13, at South Campus. The speaker will be Rick Johnson who will be speaking about his experiences with Camp Winshape and Chick-fil-A. Dennis would like any ideas we might have for speakers for future meetings.

Mike Morgan commended Shannon Osborne for getting the Council off to a good start in a great way for 2020.

Shannon ended the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gerry Sykora  
Recording Secretary