

First United Methodist Church

Valparaiso, Indiana

Minutes Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 7:00 PM

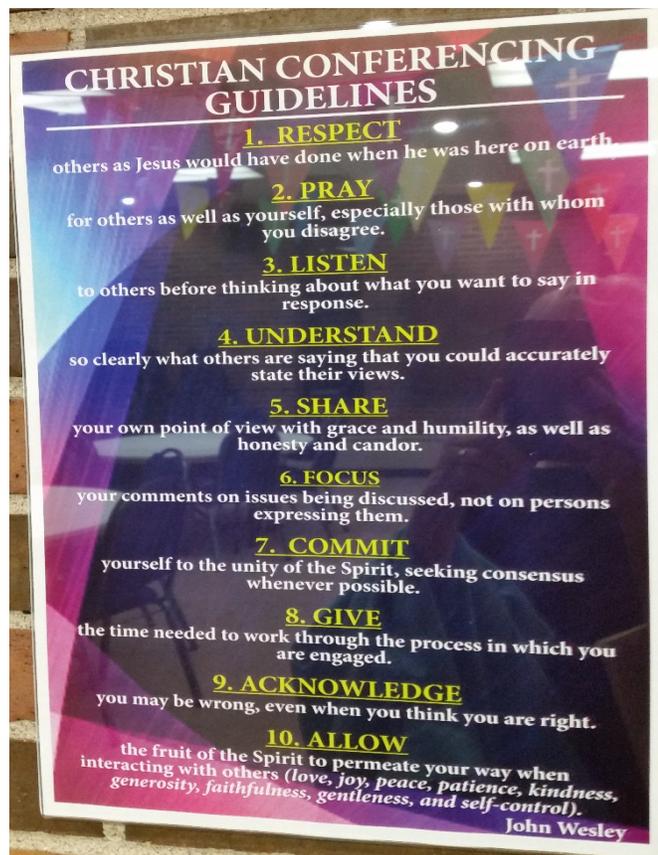
Attendees (30): Pam Gonzalez, Mike Strayer, Matt Hoyert, Hannah Hoyert, Dean Gerber, Joyce McMurtrey, Reggie Syrcle, Marcia Burbage, Kate Shifflett, Cindy Felton, Elisha Porterfield, Steve Fullenkamp, Kay Morris, Rev. Dee Miller, David Mulcahy, Rev. Bob Coolman, Terry Sauer, Keith Kirkpatrick, Tammy Scheibel, Sue Clemens, Larry Tumbleson, Heather Novak, Bob Simmons, Dena Simmons, Ruth Vance, Judy Kittridge, Deb Winter, Brett Dahlgren, Pastor Kevin Miller, and one illegible name.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Cindy Felton, Council Chair. The Council reaffirmed “Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Reflection, Charge & Opening Prayer: by Pastor Kevin Miller.

Pastor Miller stated and reviewed the list of Christian Conferencing Guidelines that has been in existence for a while was re-emphasized at the Annual Conference. Since the guidelines are a good reminder of how to conduct business at FUMC Valpo, the Christian Conferencing Guidelines have been posted around the church, particularly in places where groups will meet.



Pastor Miller offered a prayer.

Review & Approval of April 30, 2019 meeting minutes: (see attached) Chair Felton asked the group to review the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ruth Vance and seconded by Mike Strayer. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Financial Report & Update: (see attached) Deb Winter, Treasurer, reviewed the June 30, 2019, financial reports. Halfway in the fiscal year, we hope to achieve 50% of anticipated income and no more than 50% of budgeted expenses.

The June 30, 2019, financial statements have good news:

- All income received was \$405,004.72 which is 52.56% of budgeted total income.
 - The unbudgeted 5 on 5 Challenge brought in an additional \$13,361.59 which is included in the \$405,004.72 figure.
- Expenses at \$400,579.25 were 48.95% of budgeted expenses.
- The cash balance was \$14,425.47 which included \$10,000 carried over from 2018 in order to pay bills early in the year.
- The \$15,000 borrowed from the Unity and Diversity Fund early in the year, has been repaid.

Deb thanked Kate Shifflett for her hard work and the congregation for closing the gap far earlier in the year compared with many past years.

Old Business:

- **Update on Endowments** – Dr. Jack Felton, Chair of the Endowment Committee, gave an overview of the fund. He stated at the end of the fund's fiscal year, June 30th, there was \$10,600 in undesignated funds that will be available for grants this year.
 - Grant Process:
 - A packet with information on the fund, the process of applying for funds, and an application will be mailed to all members of the Council. He encouraged the Council members to share the information with other members of the congregation.
 - The Endowment Committee plans to add a few more committee members reaching a total of 8 voting committee members and 2 non-voting members.
 - The Committee will announce to the congregation that they are seeking grant requests with a submission deadline of October 31.
 - The Committee will announce the approved grants once a selection is made.
 - Celebration Moment – Jack stated that an undesignated bequest of \$10,000 was received for the endowment through the estate of Rev. Dr. John and Mrs. Carolyn Wolf. This donation is not reflected in the church's June financials in tonight's packet, because the quarterly statement from the Foundation was not received until July. The \$10,000 was included in the Endowment Committee's fiscal report as the gift was received at the Foundation before June 30. The gift will be reflected in the church's July monthly financial statement.
 - The Church is grateful for the donation from the Wolf family and the Committee hopes to use the donation as an example in a marketing campaign to encourage others to contribute to the Endowment Fund.
 - The committee will be working on a marketing campaign over this year.

Discussion ensued.

New Business

- **Staff-Parish Relations – Conflict Resolution Document:** (see attached) David Mulcahy presented a Conflict Resolution Policy Draft. David and Wayne Carr attended a SPRC workshop in LaPorte. The leaders of the training emphasized the need to have a conflict resolution plan for our church before a problem arises. The SPRC reviewed documents of other churches and developed a policy designed specifically for our church.

Discussion ensued. There were questions regarding how the Conflict Resolution Policy and the Christian Conferencing Guidelines work together and whether some minor wording changes might make the document a little clearer.

David invited anyone who has a suggestion to submit it to SPRC for consideration. Various SPRC's of this church have been working on a Conflict Resolution Document since 2006, showing how difficult it is to create such a document.

Chair Felton recommended people who have ideas to be considered email them to Wayne Carr or write up the suggestion and put it in his church mailbox. A deadline for suggestion submissions is August 10. After the August 10th deadline, the SPRC will consider the suggestions and rework the document as they deem necessary. A final draft will be submitted to the Church Council chair who will distribute the document for an email vote.

Keith Kirkpatrick made a motion to table a decision on the Conflict Resolution Document and to send it back to the SPRC for further discussion.

The motion, seconded by David Mulcahy was unanimously approved.

- **National/International Meal Packing Event:** (see attached) Mike Strayer discussed the packing event planned for Sept. 21 at our church. We are teaming with Midwest Mission Distribution Center who will furnish the ingredients and packing equipment. After the event, Midwest will take the packed items to their warehouse to prepare for shipment to Central or South America.
 - The \$10,000 cost for the event is being funded by the Unity and Diversity Fund.
 - 54,000 meals will be packed in 9,000 bags. Each bag holds a meal for 6.
 - It will take about 250 volunteers, working in 2 shifts to get the job done. Each shift will be about 2 ½ hrs. long.
 - We are looking forward to working with community members in this event and will be inviting other churches, friends, and family members to join in. All are welcome to participate!
 - Packers must be 10 years old or older.
 - Children 9 and younger have a role as well. They will make snack packs which will be distributed through the food pantry.
 - In August, the committee will market the event, inviting people to sign up to volunteer.
- **Strategic Steering Team Report –** (see attached) Keith Kirkpatrick discussed the document Strategic Steering Team Recommendations dated July 23, 2019.

Keith thoroughly reviewed the document as there are some recommendations for significant changes. The suggestions for changes were received well. Keith reminded us that during the “Conversations” which were open to all members of the church, it was almost universally acknowledged that if Valpo FUMC is to not only survive, but thrive, change is an imperative.

The team has been working for about a year. After they made their report at the last Council meeting, they went to work on making some specific suggestions that will require discussion and commitment to follow through. The Council commended the team for their commitment and hard work.

An emphasis was made on maintaining openness and transparency. Listening sessions were suggested.

Discussion ensued.

Keith Kirkpatrick made a motion to expand the committee with additional members. Sue Clemens seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Youth Report- (see attached). In Marc Adams’s absence, Pastor Miller presented a document which shows the new logo and emphasis for our Youth Ministry.

Senior Pastor Report: (see attached). Pastor Kevin Miller reviewed the document which indicates a group from our church, including Pastor Miller, will be attending the dedication of the Tiama Enterprise Academy in Sierra Leone, Oct. 7-20. Because of the Tiama trip, the October Church Council meeting will be Oct. 1.

There will be a number of Adult Discipleship opportunities this fall.

The fall Stewardship Campaign – “Practicing Extravagant Generosity” will be Oct. 6-27.

Celebration Moment: Bob Coolman announced a second celebration moment for the evening. We celebrate the fact we have a wide age range of congregants going to the Tiama dedication, including an 80 year old church member.

Closing Prayer/Adjourn: Cindy Felton closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting concluded at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Joyce McMurtrey

Council Secretary

2019 Church Council Meetings: October 1

If you have items for the agenda, please notify Cindy Felton – cynthia.felton@valpo.edu – Or Pastor Kevin – kmiller@valpofumc.org – no later than 10 days before the Council meeting.