

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Church Council Meeting
(formerly known as Administrative Council)
March 24, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Rick Starck (Church Council Chairman)	Alfred Current Scott Folsom	Betty Hansell Charles Hilton	Irv Hopkins Jo Ann Hopkins
Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly	John Furtado	Mary Hilton	Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Rick Starck.

Corrections To Minutes – The recording secretary was not notified of any necessary corrections to the minutes of the recent Administrative Council meeting or Vision Retreat meeting. However, due to several complications that arose during conversations with the event’s organizers, it has since been determined not to pursue GCUMC’s participation in the Charlotte Harbor Super Boat Grand Prix on April 12 and 13.

FORMAT OF AD COUNCIL MEETINGS

Rick and Rev. Bill have been discussing ways to achieve a more effective use of Ad Council meetings. In the past, each committee and group would make a short presentation to the Ad Council. However, in most instances, little additional information was presented above what was already in the minutes for that group’s last meeting. By the time everyone had spoken, the meeting had already lasted two hours, and there was no more time to conduct other things which should be considered by the Ad Council.

As a result, Rick would like to start handling Ad Council meetings a little differently. During the discussion which ensued, the following points and suggestions were made:

1. While some administrative things need to be addressed, the Ad Council should be more of an executive body, leading the church in visions and implementation of those visions.
2. Ad Council members are the visionary leaders of the church, and in the past, we have not addressed many visionary projects or considered how to capitalize on or to implement one.
3. There currently is good communication at Ad Council meetings. We go around the table and each team makes a presentation. However, the meetings fall short in that there is never sufficient time to actually discuss “vision” items.
4. It should be emphasized to the members that ALL minutes and reports should be studied prior to the Ad Council meeting. Currently, the minutes are available on the church’s website and through the office, and Dana is still distributing them to committee members and to whoever has asked to receive them.
5. Only red items and resolutions which need Ad Council attention will be discussed at Ad Council meetings.

6. For groups that do not prepare minutes, such as the Crafty Ladies and GCUM Men, we need to ensure that they are provided an avenue to present information so that all issues of the church can be addressed properly.
7. Ideally, resolutions will be written up and submitted to the Ad Council as soon as possible. The proposed resolution will be distributed to other Ad Council members so that each member has sufficient time to explore independently the background and obtain answers to questions prior to voting. However, this is not meant to stymie further discussion of the topic. Admittedly, there will be things which will arise “at the last minute” which need to be addressed.
8. Consider changing the name of the Administrative Council to what the Book of Discipline calls that body – the Church Council.
9. The current make-up of our major committees reflects a maturity in dealing with issues and problems of the church. The committee members know what issues they can handle by themselves and which issues should be addressed by the Ad Council. Faithfully relying on this aspect of the committees can free up much time during Ad Council meetings.
10. Rev. Bill pointed out that the Book of Discipline was changed to reflect that not all of the specific committees are needed, but individuals should be selected to represent Nurture (caring for those within the church), Outreach (caring for those outside the church), Witness (lifting up the name of Jesus, worship, those who evangelize, faith-sharing) and Support (SPR, Trustees, Finance, & Nominations).
11. A “Leadership Team” or “Executive Team” could be established with a minimal number of members whose sole purpose is to address the vision items of the church – to explore what we can do as a church. For this type of Team to succeed, it is necessary that the congregation trusts the individuals on the Team.
12. Two possible ways to man the Leadership Team (LT) are to include individuals who represent:

1) Nurture	1) Ad Council Chairman
2) Outreach	2) Trustee Chairman
3) Witness	3) SPR Chairman
4) Support	4) Finance Chairman
5) Lay Leader	5) Education Chairman
	6) Lay Leader
	7) Outreach Chairman

13. Another way to populate the LT is to allow the various projects it considers to be determinative of who is on the team. In other words, it would be a floating team, with the membership changing as the project requires. In addition, one project might last a few months, while another a year or two. In this way, several projects (each with its own LT) could be considered at the same time.
14. Each LT would explore issues relevant to its project, such as: doing the background research; who in our community will this address; what kinds of programs will be run

internally; how much money is needed; inviting necessary individuals to LT meetings to discuss a particular aspect of the project. If all the necessary information is contained in the LT's write-up, it would not be necessary for any "invitees" to attend the Church Council meeting at which the project is considered; the invitees are welcome to come if they wish, but it is not necessary.

15. The LT itself would not be making final decisions as to what the church will do, but instead, its "best ideas" decisions would be presented to the Church Council for consideration.
16. If the Leadership Teams concept is adopted, we could consider changing the timing of meetings. The various LTs might meet once or twice a month; the Church Council might need to meet only every other month.
17. Since GCUMC entered the DNA process, the Ad Council and DNA have alternated meeting months. This every-other-month meeting format has worked well for the last two years.
18. The question was posed as to who would select the individuals to serve on a Leadership Team. Would it be the Nominations Committee, or the Church Council, or from somewhere else? Although the Nominating Committee selects the people who serve on the various committees, it is believed that for the purpose of LTs, the Church Council should appoint the members.
19. Perhaps only two or three Church Council members should belong on a LT, and they are free to invite anyone else to join them on the LT – keeping in mind that the more individuals you have on a team, the harder it becomes to reach a consensus.

Betty Hansell moved, seconded by Jo Ann Hopkins, that the Administrative Council be renamed the *Church Council*, and that the Church Council will meet every other month. Everyone indicated they agreed with this motion.

Jo Ann Hopkins moved, seconded by John Furtado, that the new format for Church Council meetings be adopted. Only "red" items, proposed resolutions, and other necessary issues will be discussed before the floating Leadership Teams present their reports. All Church Council members are responsible for studying committee minutes and doing necessary background checks, so that they are in a position to address issues which are raised before the Church Council. Everyone indicated they agreed with this motion.

OTHER MATTERS

Education Subcommittees: Jo Ann Hopkins believes it is not necessary to hold monthly, or even quarterly, Education meetings. However, she does need a "subcommittee" to assist her with things such as school superintendent, senior adult ministries (sessions on Alzheimer's, scams, falling down, etc.), and technology ministries (sessions on Facebook, computers, cell phones, etc.). Jo Ann indicated that Maryanne Carrico will be assisting her on the senior adult projects.

Rev. Bill indicated that the Nominations Committee should not be put in charge of finding individuals to assist in every underlying project or committee. Instead, the Nominations Committee should select one individual to lead the top-level committee, but not the subcommittees.

In Rick's opinion (to which everyone else agreed), it is not necessary to bring before the Church Council a request to form a subcommittee or to find people to work on it. If a subcommittee is needed, the chairman of the top-level committee has the authority to do it and to find the right people to be on the subcommittee. Forming the subcommittee should clearly be set forth in the committee's minutes.

Rick said Jo Ann's need for Education subcommittees is the impetus to form our **first Leadership Team**. Rick, Betty, and Irv volunteered to work with Jo Ann on this project. Their suggested solutions will be presented at the next Church Council.

Debt Reduction: John Furtado advised that the total to date (from both debt reduction contributions and the 1% Club) received toward the current debt reduction challenge is \$9,285. If another \$1,000 is received by the end of May, then the mortgage will be paid off by June or July.

Hallway Painting: A special "Thank you" was extended to those who assisted in painting the Education hallway: Linda Starck, Linda Thatcher, Vickie Witthaus, Sandy Pharo, Debbie Pharo, Holly Woods, and Jo Ann Hopkins.

Portable Work Day: Irv Hopkins indicated at least one more Portable Work Day will be needed to finalize that project; it will be announced when the date is selected.

Parsonage Inspection: Irv recently conducted the yearly inspection of the parsonage which is rented.

Vision Retreat Goals: Rev. Bill brought up the goals which were selected during the Vision Retreat: live streaming or recording of the sermon or service, and a non-Sunday and/or off-site worship service. No one present could remember who volunteered to be on the ad hoc committees for these two projects, but after the meeting, Dana located their names in the Vision Retreat minutes:

Non-Sunday / Off-Site Worship Service: Vic Costello, Susie Cramer von Clausbruch, John Furtado, Joan Priest, Rick Starck

Live-Streaming On-Line, YouTube, etc.: Doreen Alvarez, Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly, Jo Ann Hopkins, Carol McGuire, Keith Russell [It was also suggested that Ken Kuenzie of WENG radio be contacted regarding this idea.]

These two ad hoc teams will also be **two more Leadership Teams**. Rick will take charge of the non-Sunday LT, and Rev. Bill will take charge of the live-streaming LT. The actual members on the teams may change.

Records Management: This topic was discussed at our last Ad Council meeting. Dawn Tesaro has advised that scanning our paper documents on the church's copiers can be done; there is no charge for scanning. It is assumed that scanned items can be directed onto their proper storage media. Rick recently found a 4TB (terabyte) disk available for \$170; these disks would be perfect for our storage [1,024 gigabytes = 1 terabyte]. Rick plans to discuss this with Bruce Halbert to make sure that what is purchased is compatible with our system.

Advertising: Our need for paid advertising for the church is on hold for now.

Cuba Church Sponsorship: Sponsoring for a year a Cuban pastor (\$25-\$30 each month) or a Cuban church (\$1,000-\$1,200 for the year, which includes the pastor's salary) was a topic of discussion at our January 27, 2014, Ad Council meeting. Only a year-long commitment is needed. Dan Christopherson is the Southwest District Cuba Coordinator to the Methodists United in Prayer mission (formerly the Cuba/Florida Covenant). Dan has asked Scott Folsom to be an adult chaperone at the youth rally in Cuba where it is anticipated that more than 1,000 Cuban youth will be present. Dan has also asked if two of Gulf Cove UMC's youth could go. The cost is \$1,500 per individual; the trip runs from July 21-29. Dan will be addressing the Southwest District Youth Retreat on April 14. If our church agrees to sponsor a church prior to July, Dan said it would be arranged for Scott to visit our adopted church during their trip (assuming Scott goes). Dan's contact information is 125 Treviso Court, Venice, FL 34275, cell phone (941) 468-7209, email dancc@comcast.net. Betty indicated a desire to see if Dan could address the Crafty Ladies and GCUM Men; she would then bring back more detailed information to the Church Council. For more information on the Cuba-Florida mission, see:

<http://flumc-missions.org/muip-covenant.html>

<http://www.floridaconferenceconnection.info/blogs/detail/234>

<http://goodnewsmag.org/2013/12/signs-and-wonders-in-cubas-methodism/>

ADJOURNING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm with communion and a prayer by Rev. Bill. The next meeting will be a DNA meeting, on Monday, April 28, 2014, at 7:00pm. The Rev. Dr. Don Nations will be attending via Skype. (After that, we will have one more DNA meeting, with Rev. Nations attending in person, possibly in the fall after our northern members return to the area.)

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson