

**Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**  
*Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus*  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**June 22, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman)	Alfred Current	Mary Hilton	Jeanne Shrout
Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly	Scott Folsom	Gretchen Leppla	Linda Starck
Vic Costello	John Furtado	Skip Messenger	Rick Starck
	Betty Hansell	Ken Priest	Dana Hanson

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

**Corrections to Previous Minutes:** The recording secretary was not notified of any necessary corrections to the minutes of the May 26, 2015 meeting.

**NURTURE**

**Education:** Gretchen advised she will be holding a meeting with the Sunday school teachers for children next Sunday.

**Vacation Bible School:** Gretchen reported that she and Dana had been going crazy the past couple weeks reviewing the program. The donation board was set out the day before, and most of the slips of paper are gone. She and Scott went shopping today and purchased everything for which they were looking. Overall, the plans for VBS are going well.

A copy of the proposed set design drawn by Jim Choate was given to each person. Although everyone was impressed with the drawings, several questions were raised (about the altar, choir seating, the organist, communion, etc.), each of which were answered by Rev. Bill, as he and Jim had already considered the issue. The VBS set may cost up to \$500. It was felt that since this is a new type of VBS that we haven't done before, we should spend enough to make everything look good. It is planned that the decorations will be up from the start of VBS until shortly after it ends. Ideally, as much of the set as possible will be foldable so that storage locations for the set may be easier to find.

It was suggested that we double-check with the organist that the proposed set design meets with her approval, and that it will not interfere with her view of the choir director.

It was also noted that the new lighting has been delivered and is currently on the sanctuary floor waiting to be installed. Each light sits on its own Styrofoam block. Gretchen and Dana asked that the blocks and the cardboard be saved so VBS can use them.

**Small Groups:** Gretchen said she has visited the small groups of which she is aware.

## **OUTREACH**

**Team Cuba:** Betty advised that everything discussed at the May Council meeting has been accomplished. Mary said that Charles Hilton is making prayer bracelets from the beads that Linda purchased in Bethlehem when she was in Israel. Sales of the bracelets will be a fundraiser for Team Cuba. One of the next major goals of Team Cuba is to assist in purchasing new water treatment equipment. Rev. Bill would like a video to be made and put on the new computer that Team Cuba is purchasing for Nicaro, so that the video is there when the computer is received by Pastor Reinaldo.

Scott and one of our youth will be traveling to Cuba in July to attend the Cuban Methodist youth camp. They will also travel to our sister church in Nicaro and deliver the gifts which our congregation is gathering.

**Myakka River Elementary:** Alfred asked if we want to plan on some new Myakka activities in the near future, such as a “welcome back to school” lunch or breakfast for the teachers and staff. We can also solicit help for their Fall Festival, assuming they have one. They can still use reading mentors and similar assistance in the school. Some VBS flyers were delivered to Myakka on the Monday of the last week of school for distribution to the students.

**Boy Scouts:** Alfred advised that the Boy Scouts are doing well and getting ready for another camping trip. They are also holding a quarter-auction fundraiser on June 24 at the Rotonda West American Legion.

**Relay for Life:** Alfred and Ken are discussing ways to start early with raising funds for next spring’s Relay for Life.

## **WITNESS**

**Worship:** The sermon series has been changed from September to October. The theme will be *Life’s a Beach*. The team will meet again in August and will be asking for beach gear.

No one has heard any complaints about the new configuration of the sanctuary chairs. The 8:00 worship team discussed how the new layout would affect the offering, communion, and ushering, and as a result, the 8:00 service went smoothly. Unfortunately, those ideas were apparently not conveyed to the 11:00 worship team. In the future, the 8:00 and 11:00 services need to establish a way to communicate plans for the offering and communion. They can also share what worked and didn’t between the services.

## **SUPPORT**

**Finance:** John advised that through May, the year’s spendable income donations total \$195,067. For the period June 1-21, \$19,188 has been received. Since it appears we will be short of our

one month budget of \$35,000, it is likely that something will be pulled from the Reserve Fund, which currently contains \$26,554. Fortunately, at the start of June, we had \$16,430 in the checking account, but John does not know what bills have been received and paid during the last three weeks. Although Finance had no “reds” at Council’s last meeting, we do now. Summer has arrived....

**Trustees:** The following were mentioned in the ensuing discussion:

- Before Scott takes the youth to Key West next week, the van will be checked to be sure it is in good running order. Scott recently updated the van’s first aid kit.
- Skip advised that a new ice maker has been installed in the refrigerator, and it is working fine.
- The wooden deck around the portables has been cleaned and is about 90 percent sealed. However, Skip warned that the lower portion of the siding on the portables is so rotted that water soaks in when it rains. As a result, they have been sealing the lower siding as well.
- The custodian will be painting the stained ceiling tiles with Kilz, which covers the water marks, doesn’t bleed through, and prevents mold.
- The serving room doors have been fixed and no longer make that “horrible noise” when opened and closed. The same needs to be done to the wooden door between the narthex and the sanctuary.
- The new colored, LED lighting for the sanctuary has arrived. Installation should be completed by the end of the month.
- The windows in the Crafty Ladies’ portion of Oaks Cove are being fixed.
- The bracket which holds up the security light behind the portables is broken and needs to be repaired. The light itself works. P&M Tree Service broke the bracket when the nearby trees were trimmed. Cory from P&M indicated they would fix the bracket. Alfred will be following up with Cory and P&M.
- There is a security light in the barn which needs a new bracket.

Alfred mentioned that he stopped by the church one day to drop something off. He said Skip was drenched from being outside applying the sealant to the deck around the portables! And Becky Moss was in the kitchen working just as hard, scrubbing and polishing!

*A special “Thank You” to Skip Messenger for accepting the position of Chairman of the Trustees and putting his heart and soul into it!*

*And a second “Thank You” to Becky Moss for her efforts in making the kitchen sparkle!*

**Staff Parish:** Ken (on behalf of Joan Priest) advised that most of the staff evaluations are completed. They are due the end of June.

**Nominations:** Rev. Bill advised that a new Bereavement Chairman is needed, to coordinate food and meal items when funeral or memorial services are held at the church. The chairman usually consults with the family to ascertain what they would like, which can range from cold sandwiches and finger foods to the occasional hot meals. The prior chairman kept very detailed records as to what and how much was purchased, how much of each item was used, how much of each item was left, and even how many people were fed. Necessary supplies (tablecloths, serving bowls, serving spoons, etc.) are also available. It is hoped that individuals will prayerfully consider taking over this role which was so thoughtfully handled by the prior chairman.

The Nomination Committee is getting ready for the fall survey to fill available positions for 2016. The Spiritual Gifts survey is yielding results.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**At Ease Veterans' Ministry:** The next meeting at the American Legion in Port Charlotte will be on Tuesday, July 7, at 1pm. Those interested in participating in the prayer vigil at GCUMC during the ministry are welcome before 1:00. The meeting date is being changed from Thursdays to Tuesdays. At their first meeting on June 4, there had been a misunderstanding, in that veterans who had heard that GCUMC was coming there thought we were simply using one of the rooms. They did not realize that they were invited to join us. Vic's impression was that they were very guarded, and he felt Rev. Bill did a great job in the way he approached each veteran at the hall, explaining that we had no agenda; we simply felt the call to be there. Vic believes the key to the whole ministry is prayer. Even though only one meeting has been held, it has already been suggested that we consider expanding the program to the Rotonda West American Legion.

**Church Van Lettering:** Skip questioned whether we want lettering on the entire length of the sides of the van, or on just the doors. Also, do we want lettering on the back of the van? The size and length of the lettering will, of course, determine how expensive the job will be. The lettering will be paid by the Trustees.

The van lettering was also discussed at last month's Council meeting. Those minutes state:

Alfred Current has indicated that Outreach funds may be used for lettering on the van. A discussion of what should be on the van ensued. It was felt information should be on both sides and the back of the van. It was ultimately recommended that the blue roof logo, Gulf Cove United Methodist Church, Port Charlotte, Florida, and the website (GulfCoveChurch.com, capitalizing each word) should be included on the van. This information will be conveyed to the trustees.

In light of the discrepancy (discovered after June's meeting) as to which account will pay for the lettering, your Council Chairperson suggests that that Outreach and the Trustees discuss this further, since the trustee funds are so limited.

Also after the meeting, Dana received an email from Randy Moore which stated, in part, "When we (Bob Miller and I) picked up the check from Bobby at Grand Air, to pay for the van, we promised him when and if we letter it we would list his company as the donor of the van." This means that another line of lettering will have to be added, which says something along the lines of "Donated by Grande Aire Services, Inc."

**Imagine No Malaria:** A discussion ensued about distribution of money raised from the February Pig Pickin'. GCUMC has made a \$2,500 commitment to the Imagine No Malaria program. According to the 1/26/2015 Council minutes, "part of the Pig Pickin' proceeds will be used for this purpose."

The 2/23/2015 Council minutes state that the net proceeds from the Pig Pickin' totaled \$5,095; i.e., after payment of the cost of goods sold and other expenses, a start-up amount for next year was set aside, and 10% was given to the church to cover operating expenses. Alfred advised that of that amount, \$3,000 was used to purchase the Boy Scouts' trailer; this was slightly higher than the expected cost of \$2,500.

The February minutes also state, "GCUMC has pledged \$2,500 to the Imagine No Malaria program. Although there is sufficient income in the outreach fund to pay this pledge, [there are] some activities planned for raising the funds. ... Pig Pickin' proceeds will be used to cover the portion of the Imagine No Malaria pledge which is not raised."

**Church Family Fun Night:** Kim Fisackerly's recent note indicates that we will not be holding a fun night in June. We would shoot for July and August. The scouts have indicated an interest in operating the "concessions."

After the Council meeting, Kim advised that the first event is scheduled for Friday, July 17, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The July evening will be line dancing. The August date is still to be determined, because the Boy Scouts are going to do concessions.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Location of American Flag:** Many individuals have expressed disappointment and concern that the American flag was not placed back in the sanctuary after it was removed for the Good Friday service. This same issue arose several years ago when the American and Methodist flags were in the narthex; the result then was that they were moved back into the sanctuary. The flag is a symbol of America and our patriotism, just as the cross is a symbol of Christianity. However, if the presence of the American flag in the sanctuary causes it to become a false idol, then we have reason for concern. The majority of those present felt it was fine to keep the American flag in

the sanctuary. One of the strongest arguments for keeping the flag in the sanctuary is because we want God to bless our country. Also to be considered is, what is the religious significance? The consensus was that the American and Methodist flags should remain in the front of the sanctuary.

**Annual Conference Report:** Doreen will deliver this report to the congregation on Sunday. There were 47 clergy celebrated at the service of licensing, commissioning, and ordination (elders, deacons, and local pastors). At past conferences, the number retiring has been two to three times the number who are newly appointed. So this year's 47 compares "favorably" to the number of clergy who retired – slightly more than 50.

**GCUMC.SLACK.COM:** This is a general application which can be used for communication of church business by posting comments and files. Slack advertises itself as a "messaging app for teams." It is available for iPhones, iPads, Android devices, Windows (7 or newer), and Mac OSX (10.7 or newer). Rick has already established the GCUMC Slack domain, and created the channels (groups) of teamcuba, praiseteam, Myakka-river, boyscouts, and vbs. You can upload pictures, files, and other things. Church members who wish to join the Slack communications should email Rick Starck.

**Speakers:** Vic brought up the possibility of installing ceiling speakers in the education hallway, serving room, and narthex, similar to the one currently in the nursery. When people are waiting to come into the sanctuary, including when the children are brought in for communion, it disturbs everyone to have to crack open the door to hear at what point the service is. Speakers would obviate the need to open the door. It is also an auditory reminder to those just arriving at church that a service is in session and they need to keep their voices down. It would also enable parents who have to take their little ones out of the sanctuary to still hear the sermon.

### **ADJOURNING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with communion and a prayer by Rev. Bill. It was decided that we will not hold a meeting in July. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, 2015 at 7:00pm. We are all asked to contact Doreen with topics, questions, and concerns for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson  
Recording Secretary