

**Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**  
*Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus*  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**August 22, 2016 – 7:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman) Pastor Mike Weaver Fred Boyer Judy Boyer Sandy Doty	Scott Folsom John Furtado Mary Hilton Gretchen Leppla Carol McGuire John McGuire	Joan Priest Ken Priest Rick Starck Donna Wallace Dana Hanson
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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 July 25, 2016, meeting.

**TEAM CONCERNS**

**Nurture:** Sandy and Pastor Mike have spoken about *Small Groups*. During the meeting, Pastor Mike reiterated his belief that there need to be a variety of different kinds and levels of small groups, because people are at different levels on their Christian walks.

**Outreach:** *Team Cuba* has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 6. Betty Hansell has asked Rick to take over on her behalf for a while and work with Jeanne on matters relating to Cuba. Scott advised that the Agape flight from Venice was leaving Tuesday morning to take the water filtration systems to Cuba (including one to Nicaro). Dan Christopherson was already in Cuba and would be meeting the flight.

Pastor Mike, Alfred Current, Gretchen, and others took breakfast to the *Myakka River Elementary* teachers on August 8. Mike said it was very well received. Although he did not meet the school's new principal and assistant principal that day, he did meet them at a subsequent Open House and they conveyed their thanks for the things GCUMC has done for the school.

Pastor Mike and Holly Tozer have already started talking about Trunk or Treat. They would like to see us provide free (instead of selling) hot dogs, hamburgers, and chips (or similar) to the families that come.

**Witness:** Donna said *Worship* did not finalize anything at their recent meeting, but did make tentative plans regarding several things. One final decision was made regarding Christmas Day: Pastor Mike said that since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will have only one service at 10am for the whole family. The Lessons of the Three Trees will be presented that day. Dropping the 11:30pm service on Christmas Eve was discussed since attendance is so low; only 42 people attended last year. Pastor Mike said they are also talking about alternative services. Joan pointed out, however, that quite often people from the community attend because they are looking for a late communion service. She also mentioned the possibility of connecting with another church(es) in our area to conduct an ecumenical service. A Blue Christmas service is tentatively planned for Monday, December 19.

Our *Movin' On Up* program for children in grades PK-12 is this coming Sunday, August 28, at the end of the 9:30 service. Joan explained that the children's classes last Sunday morning reviewed and practiced in-depth what will be happening on the 28<sup>th</sup>. It is thought that the children who want to take a larger part or speak in the program will be mentored by an adult, while those children who want to stay more in the background will shadow an adult. Adults who don't usually attend the 9:30 service are encouraged to stay or come early for the 9:30 service. Those in charge have indicated they will make sure that people whose Sunday duties will be directly affected by the program need to be contacted, including John & Elaine Dorotics, Joan Frizzell, John & Carol McGuire, and Helen Boyce.

**Support - Finance:** John Furtado reported that Finance has no reds.

- Spendable donations for the year through the end of July were \$262,427 as compared to \$244,573 for the same time last year. Income during August-to-date is \$20,260.
- During June, \$4,000 was transferred from the Reserve Fund to cover expenses, but nothing was transferred during July. [During the meeting, John inadvertently said the \$4,000 was pulled during July.] John anticipates needing \$6,000 to \$7,000 to meet August expenses. The amount of \$2,379 was transferred from the Reserve fund in August to pay for the balance due on the new pastor's moving expenses.
- John has asked Dawn Tesauro to create another account into which she should put \$30 each month, specifically to cover future moving expenses of a new pastor. This is a common practice with many churches since Methodist Churches are responsible for paying the moving expenses of any incoming pastor. Pastor Mike promises to give us at least 520 Sundays!
- Our Apportionments for 2017 went up to \$42,524, as compared to \$41,902 this year.
- Pastor Mike said that with regard to communion offerings, he much prefers to see the donations go toward the church missions or ministry. It was explained to him that we leave the communion recipient for one month in the fall open, just in case we need to take up a special collection because of a hurricane. If we are impacted, we might be one or two weeks without donations before everyone starts coming back on a regular basis.

**Support - Trustees:** Doreen said based on their minutes, the siding on the portables is their primary red.

- John Furtado passed on information from Randy Moore who has been researching the cost of a new, outside electronic sign. A new sign of about the same size as is currently out front (about 6'x12'), one color (orange), would cost about \$28,000, not including installation. It comes with "all the bells and whistles we need." Somebody would have to obtain a permit and arrange for installation. Right now we have only \$32,000 available to pay for purchase, permits, and installation. Trying to get a multi-colored sign could take the cost up to \$40,000. Pastor Mike said the size of the lettering can be altered; 9" is a good height that can be seen from a distance. Mike said there are a few other electronic-sign companies in the area that we would like to contact that might be able to make a better offer on a multi-colored sign.
- Pastor Mike and Skip have discussed needed signage around the church campus, such as that which would direct young children to the Sunday school room.

- Ken advised that a contract was reached today with a company that will maintain the lawn at the parsonage and the vacant lot next door for \$70 a month. This will include four cuts a month during the summer, and two or three during the other months.
- Ken conveyed a heartfelt *Thank You!* to **Jerry Spurgeon, Alfred Current, & Tom Eisele** for keeping the parsonage lawn mowed after the renters moved out until now.
- And a special *Thank You!* to the **Men's Group and Crafty Ladies** for purchasing the new fountain for the pond, and to **Al Crosby & Jim Inman** for installing it. It looks really great!

**Support - Staff Parish:** Joan advised about several SPR matters.

- It was announced last Sunday that Angela Navarro has been hired as our new organist. Although she does not start until November 1, she has agreed to practice with the chancel choir during October so she will be ready to step right in. We will pay her during October as a guest accompanist.
- The Florida Methodist Conference will no longer self-insure for pastors' health insurance starting in 2017. They have instructed churches to include \$15,000 in the pastor's taxable income to cover costs for pastor/family insurance, whether purchased on the open market or covered through a spousal plan. The decision not to self-insure was made because Conference is no longer able to provide insurance coverage due to multiple costly medical claims which have been increasing annually, from children to retired clergy. The annual amount required to be paid by the churches is very close to what was already being paid for Conference insurance premiums, which had been non-taxable to the pastors.
- We will be having a Pastor Appreciation Day on Sunday, October 23, which will also be our Welcome BBQ for Pastor Mike and his family. Chef Alfred Current is in charge of the food. *Mmm, mmm, good!* Individuals will have to make reservations so that the appropriate amount of food will be prepared.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Facility Expansion:** We have no update on this topic.

**Lay Nominations:** It is too early for Pastor Mike to start meeting with this committee.

**Fresh Expressions & Evangelism:** Since there is too much to cover at this meeting, these topics are being put on the back burner for now.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Church Growth:** Pastor Mike, Ken and Rick will be meeting to discuss this topic. This small committee is the result of a training session that Ken and Rick attended.

**Discipleship Plan:** It is felt that this program should be created by a team of individuals who are appointed by Lay Nominations. Pastor Mike would lead the team. Both new and long-time church members should be on the team. The Discipleship Team would come up with a plan and present it to the Church Council which would then tweak the plan. [It is noted that developing a Discipleship Plan was a major part of our discussions at the February 2016 Vision Retreat.]

As explained by Doreen, we want to encourage visitors who come to our church to return. In the past, we have talked about visiting them and making phone calls. A specific plan needs to be developed. Then, if they do come back a second and third time, how do we get them connected and plugged in?

**Youth News:** Scott informed the group that this year's *See You at the Pole* event will be held before school on September 28. Students meet at their flagpole half an hour before school starts, which varies from school to school. The kids lead the program, while adults support it.

*Confirmation* classes for youth in grades 6-12 will start on Sunday, September 18. Scott plans to hold sessions from 2-4pm, but the number of Sundays is up in the air right now. The number of Sundays that will be required depends, in part, on the number of youth taking part in the program.

### **ADJOURNING**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm with communion and a prayer by Pastor Mike. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson  
Recording Secretary