

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Church Council Meeting
February 27, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Doreen Alvarez (Church
Council Chairman)
Pastor Mike Weaver

Judy Boyer
Alfred Current
John Furtado

Linda Starck
Rick Starck
Donna Wallace
Bob Wollmacher

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 January 2017 meeting.

TEAM CONCERNS

Nurture: No report.

Outreach: Alfred advised that we have received thank you notes from Vineland Elementary School and Myakka River Elementary School for the Pig Pickin' lunches we provided to the teachers and staff last month. He said he believed proceeds from the Pig Pickin' was about \$6,500 (after expenses of \$3,060) plus another about \$750 from the Cookie Dash. Alfred believes about 100 teacher meals were purchased, and the event proceeds had to cover about 50 more meals.

John asked if we should put aside seed money for our next Pig Pickin'. Alfred responded that there is no reason to establish a seed account if checks for pre-sales are cashed when they are received. He said he knew he had all expenses covered from pre-sales when he went to make major purchases before the event, but the money was not available. After discussion, it was agreed that we should create a separate account into which pre-sales can immediately be placed so the money can be used as planned. Alfred anticipates that all proceeds (with the exception of \$1,500, discussed below) will be available for any Outreach program.

Myakka has conveyed their request for our assistance with cooking, assisting with their silent auction, and providing sodas at their Spring Carnival on Friday, April 7, from 5:00 to 7:30.

With regard to the Boy Scouts, we now have a new Eagle Scout, with more in line for that rank. Alfred would like to give \$1,500 from the Pig Pickin' proceeds to the Boy Scouts to help with their purchase of camping equipment and shelves for their trailer. After a short discussion, all agreed we should give the Boy Scouts \$1,500 as a small "thank you" for everything they do around the church.

John advised that he spoke with Jerry Spurgeon about Habitat. Our pledge for the 2017 Apostles Build is \$4,200, but we only have \$2,841 available so far (we need \$1,359 more). Pastor Mike suggested that Jerry present an update (including pictures) to the congregation on our Habitat outreach. He said there are a few of our folks who go there almost every week to assist with building the home.

Alfred pointed out that he is extremely focused on two schools and the Boy Scouts. He expressed his concern about not knowing what the other outreaches in our church are doing. He would like the nominating committee to find a co-chair for Outreach to develop a better coordination of all outreach areas and to have a support plan for maximum efficiency, including a committee to include all outreach stakeholders (such as Kairos, Kairos Outside, Girl Scouts, At Ease, etc.). From a management standpoint, he feels all our separate programs are operating in a vacuum with no connection.

Pastor Mike pointed out that in some churches there are teams for each element of their vision statement. In the case of GCUMC, we would have one team which addresses "meet," another team to address "know," and a third team to address "serve." All outreach programs would fall into the serve team, including ministries that are short-lived. Each team would have a rotating or permanent chairman. He hopes this can be discussed further at the Vision Retreat.

Witness: Donna reported that Ash Wednesday plans are in place. On March 1, from 7am-9am, we will hold our drive-thru Ashes-to-Go by the pond with free coffee. At 6pm, a formal Ash Wednesday service will be held after the 5:30 simple soup & bread dinner. On Easter morning, a continental breakfast will be available.

Support: John advised that **Finance** is green.

With regard to **Trustees**, Rick said the trustees are seeking Church Council approval to begin exploring steps to sell the vacant lot owned by the church at 8350 Matecumbe Road in South Gulf Cove which was given to the church many years ago. Although Pastor Mike believes we can get \$4.2 million for the lot 😊, and Charlotte County values the lot at \$7,200 to \$7,500, Rick believes we can probably get between \$12,000 and \$20,000 for it. John has graciously agreed to act as realtor and waive his normal fees (but we would probably have fees for the broker on our side and the realtor on the other side of the sale). All present agreed we should proceed with the sale. Pastor Mike will address navigating Conference rules and requirements for the sale of the property.

The trustees think it would be advisable to obtain additional medical supplies to keep on hand for emergencies. This would include things like a pulse oximeter (for checking oxygen level), a wrist blood-pressure cuff, and possibly a glucose tester. (But is a prescription needed?) All these items are fairly inexpensive. All present agreed to the purchase of these things.

With regard to **Endowments**, Rick said the congregation should be informed/reminded several times a year about what is possible as giving for this purpose. This is an excellent opportunity for those who are unable physically to give their time, but who are financially secure and willing to give monetarily.

Rick has updated the church's Wish List which contains our immediate "wants."

The day after Council's meeting, Rick notified us that the Trustees are permanently changing their meeting date to the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the serving room. Their next meeting is Monday, March 13.

Regarding **Staff Parish**, Pastor Mike advised that the Youth Director search is going well. There are 19 applicants so far, 11 of which meet our minimum criteria. There have been 4 really good interviews, and all 4 of them will go through the second round.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Expansion: No report.

Health Department: Pastor Mike said that through word-of-mouth, attendance is slowly rising. They now have about five people or couples each week. Some people are concerned about coming because they think they will be preached to since they are meeting in a church, but the Health Department representative is downplaying that concern, based on her research of Methodist beliefs.

Vision Retreat: Pastor Mike has contacted the woman who presented the Fresh Expressions segment at *Thrive!* training, as he would like her to lead the Fresh Expressions portion of our retreat. As for location, it is tentatively planned to hold the retreat at the facility in which John & Elaine Dorotics reside (South Port Square, 23023 Westchester Blvd., Punta Gorda, FL 33980). The facility would provide and serve all the food, enabling Dawn Tesauro and Jeanne Shroud to attend the retreat, instead of having to work behind the scenes during most of the day.

The vision retreat will concentrate on “Why, How, and What” (from the book Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action by Simon Sinek). The date will likely be either April 22 or May 6. Although it is after Easter, it is hoped that any northern friends who are still here will be able to participate. Rick and Linda said they would like to join Pastor Mike and Doreen on the planning committee.

Pastor Mike asked anyone who attended the Vision Retreat last year to email Dawn at GulfCoveUMC@centurylink.net and share highs and lows (what you liked and what you didn't) about that retreat. Dawn will forward those emails to the planning committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Insights: Doreen attended this training at Thrive! If we can get the information on our congregation loaded into this program (for which Conference pays and is available on its website), we can ascertain things such as clusters of where people live and groups who would donate only to pet projects instead of the general budget. This data and demographics can be used for various purposes; examples would be, determining the locations of small groups, likes and dislikes, and the type of preaching style which is preferred. It overlaps somewhat with the DNA program which was presented to us by Don Nations.

Church Logo: Pastor Mike presented the Council with a proposed new logo which retains the idea of the blue roof. Everyone agreed with the change.

New Member Classes: Seventeen individuals have signed up for the next session of classes, which will be held on March 8, 22, and 29, in the serving room (#103) from 5:30-6:30.

Why, How, & What?: Doreen sees our why as “Helping every everyone meet, know, and serve Jesus.” Our what is all of our outreach – our nurture and our witness. She feels what we are missing is the how – that should be a vision statement, something that puts legs to things. This fits in with Alfred’s suggestion of not chasing the elusive idea, and instead, sitting down and having the nitty-gritty conversation. Rick opined that our past vision retreats have been good, but unfortunately, we haven’t followed-through on ideas which came from them. Pastor Mike pointed out that we have both ends covered – retirees and babies – but we seem to be missing the generational connection that he hopes to see come out of the vision retreat.

Rick mentioned that Alfred has done a great thing getting GCUMC involved with Myakka River and Vineland Elementary Schools. Doreen pointed out that we used to have a STAIR program here (Start the Adventure in Reading): kids came over from Myakka after school; volunteers worked with small groups of children (sometimes one-on-one), reading from books of different levels; and parents would pick them up after they had a snack.

Alfred also suggested reading the book Good to Great by Jim Collins. The central thought of the book deals with how to “get the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats.” If the right people are there, it doesn’t make any difference in which direction the bus is going.

ADJOURNING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm with a prayer by Pastor Mike. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary