

**Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**  
*Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus*  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**May 22, 2017 – 7:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman)	Carol McGuire	Jeanne Shrout
Pastor Mike Weaver	John McGuire	Linda Starck
Judy Boyer	Ken Priest	Rick Starck
John Furtado	Joan Priest	Donna Wallace
	Naomi Satterley	Dana Hanson

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

**Corrections to Previous Minutes:** The recording secretary was not notified of any necessary corrections to the minutes of the 3/27/2017 meeting. There was no April meeting because it was hoped all would attend the Vision Retreat.

**TEAM CONCERNS**

**Nurture:** No report.

**Outreach:** Doreen advised that the Alzheimer's Support Group's last meeting was May 19. Maryanne Carrico, its facilitator, is moving and no one was willing to step forward to become its new facilitator.

**Witness:** There was nothing substantial to report. Donna Wallace was thanked for all the work she put into arranging our Easter continental breakfast. It was *delicious!*

**Support:** With regard to Finance, John Furtado advised, in addition to the minutes, that this weeks' offering was just over half of what is needed each week. There is one more week in May.

With regard to Trustees, Rick advised he had nothing to add, except as outlined later under New Business, Cell Tower.

With regard to Staff Parish, Pastor Mike advised that our search for a new youth director is still on-going.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Facility Expansion:** This topic is remaining as an agenda item so that all are reminded that it *must* be addressed in the not too distant future.

**Health Department:** Those at the Council meeting were informed that effective May 16, they would be at our church every *other* week; their next session here would be May 30.

**HOWEVER**, the day after our Council meeting, a representative of the Health Department stopped by the church office. She said that they will not be here "every other week." Instead, they will be here the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Pastor Mike said there is a fairly good turnout. They do their own "publicity" regarding their sessions at GCUMC.

## **VISION RETREAT**

The retreat was very invigorating for all. Everyone was impressed with Heather Evans' presentation on Fresh Expression, as well as the discussion about Random Acts of Kindness. Attendees were broken into three groups, where each group was to come up with an action plan.

### ***Experience (Meet)***

Rick Starck is the leader, plus four other members. This prong of the triad involves how people experience Christ through us, and tends to be the other end of the Engage prong, which is how do we serve our community. One member of the group has headed north already (or will shortly); another is unavailable on a business trip. As a result, no meeting has yet been held.

### ***Embrace (Know)***

Doreen Alvarez is the leader, plus four other members. This prong of the triad involves us embracing others and helping them embrace a relationship with Christ. The group came up with a few things which can embellish what we are already doing.

- Our At Ease ministry is a personal passion of Phill Kolbe. They discussed ways to include the veterans' spouses, as he/she is also affected by what the veteran has gone through.
- Holly Tozer looked at the problem of parents who drop their children off for Jesus Rocks on Wednesday evening, then either sit in the parking lot waiting for it to end, or simply return an hour later to pick up their children. Although we have two adult groups which meet during that time, those parents -- for whatever reasons -- have chosen not to join the groups. A working title of a potential new group to address this need is Dessert and Dish – a place where parents can sit and talk about (or “dish out issues of”) being a parent, with a dessert on the side. One parent would agree to facilitate the group.
- Doreen said she felt she might be able to lead a Sunday School class at 8:00am on Sunday mornings, since there is no adult class offered during the first service.
- The group briefly discussed shut-ins and absenteeism, but did not have time to address those issues.

### ***Engage (Serve)***

Linda Starck is the leader, plus 16 other members. This prong of the triad involves how we serve our community.

- A new ministry we will be offering is called “Our Journey of Hope” and is a cancer care ministry. More information is under New Business.
- Another area into which the group hopes to move involves the Homeless Coalition and impoverished individuals. The group will receive guidance from Michelle Saunders from the Homeless Coalition. The Coalition offers seminars on understanding people who are having financial crisis, whether they are homeless or whether the problem is situational. This ministry would involve going out into the community.

- The group discussed hurricane preparedness for people in the community who don't have anyone to help them, such as seniors and single mothers. One possibility is to have them "register" with us, and that list can be used to assist them when we are threatened by a hurricane.
- They wanted to discuss more ways to reach millennials, but there was no one in their group who could provide first-hand knowledge. One problem deals with the definition of millennials; most were born from 1981 to 2001, a fairly wide span which results in several tiers of millennials. Some studies have reflected that most young adults prefer to assist directly with programs that reach out, instead of doing so through a church.
- One topic of discussion dealt with the two- or five-mile radius around our church, as identified in the Fresh Expressions discussion.
- Another possibility is to have one or two of our adults act as supervisors over children whose parents come to the Closet of Hope on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS starts in just 3 weeks (on June 12). Holly Tozer led the child protection training was held this past Saturday and Sunday, and used a Power Point presentation. After a little tweaking, Doreen and Holly hope to put it online, so people can take the training year-round. A special link can be added at the end which leads to a short quiz; Holly is then notified, and she can sign off that they took the course.

**Church/Charge Conference:** Pastor Mike explained that a "charge" conference is where all votes on an issue are made by people charged with leading the church (i.e., generally the Church Council); these are usually smaller issues, such as selling a small piece of property. A "church" conference is where all individuals who have formally joined the church vote on an issue; these are usually large issues, such as taking out a new mortgage or building a new extension. Regardless of an individual's status, anybody can attend either meeting; the difference is whether they have the ability to vote on an issue. Both types of meetings require the presence of a Church Elder in addition to the local pastor, and two weeks' notice to the congregation. Notice can come in many forms, such as statements made during Sunday morning worship services; information in the bulletins or newsletters; and flyers posted on bulletin boards. The charge conference that had been scheduled for today was cancelled because the Church Elder who was going to attend had something come up at the last minute and he could not make it.

The charge conference will be rescheduled for some time in the near future. Anyone who is eligible to vote but will not be able to be at the charge conference may notify Doreen of their intended vote for the agenda items. The conference will cover one or two items:

*Sale of Matecumbe Road Property:* First is the sale of a vacant lot owned by GCUMC. Previous minutes and emails have reflected the following: The suggestion to sell this property has been made occasionally since at least 2010, and on 2/14/2017, the Trustees formally recommended that it now be sold. The property is at 8350 Matecumbe Road in South Gulf Cove and is a dry lot with 12,264 square feet. The property was gifted to GCUMC by Raymond and Elizabeth Fuson on 4/28/1993 and is carried on Charlotte County records in the name of

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church. Charlotte County values the lot at \$7,200 to \$7,500. John Furtado and his partner have graciously agreed to act as realtor and waive their normal fees. We will likely have to pay fees to their broker and to the realtor on the other side of the sale. John recommends that a dollar-amount of commission be stated instead of a percentage. John said a quick review reflected that vacant lots are selling for about \$1 per square foot, so any asking price should be slightly higher than that. The Church Council approved the sale at their meeting on 2/27/2017. After discussion on 3/20/2017, the Finance Committee felt that an initial asking price for the lot should be \$15,000. A charge conference is now required to continue with the sale.

*Cell Tower:* The second potential item involves a long-term lease of our land in order to build a cell phone tower on our property. Rick Starck has done some research, and the Trustees have already approved it from their standpoint. The companies which do the construction usually need a 60x60 plot of land for a cell tower with no guidewires. It would be fenced and landscaped. Some towers are shaped like a pine tree or even a cross. The space on the tower would be rented to various telephone companies. The first issue to be resolved is whether we are in “the right location”; if not, construction isn’t even possible. If it is built, Rick believes we could receive from \$1,500 up to \$2,500 in rental income each month for one carrier, with more carriers resulting in more income of around \$800 each. It is unknown whether that income would be subject to UBIT (unrelated business income tax). “Long-term” lease means 25 to 35 years; however, it is unlikely that cell phone technology will stand still that long. Rick’s understanding is that there would be no monetary outlay by us, only the commitment to the lease of land. He feels that the best location for any cell tower would be on the back/east property line next to Conway Road. A charge conference is necessary to give the Trustees approval to enter into a long-term lease for the purpose of having a cell phone tower built. Rick will do more research with the major construction companies. If it looks like rental of a plot of land is feasible, the item will likely be included with the sale of the Matecumbe property as topics for a charge counsel.

**Harry Chapin Food Bank:** Around April 26, the Harry Chapin Food Bank, headquartered in Fort Myers, contacted Englewood Helping Hand about starting a Sprout Truck type food distribution in the EHH section of Charlotte County. The HCFB was looking for a location, a shady spot, and ideas. They have an insurance certificate for the property owner and volunteers will work with the HCFB truck driver. Information on the Sprout Truck which currently visits EHH on the second and fourth Thursday of each month can be found at <https://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/sprout/> and <http://ediblesarasota.ediblecommunities.com/food-thought/you-gotta-have-faith-sprout-mobile-market>. It is currently unknown whether the HCFB truck would contain just vegetables, or if it would include more. This idea was briefly addressed by Rick, Doreen, and Dana, but due to the closeness of HCFB’s two-week deadline, it was not pursued. However, it is believed it would be a good outreach activity in our area, which is a midway point between Englewood and Port Charlotte. After discussion, all present agreed it is something we should check into further. Pastor Mike agreed to make the next phone calls to HCFB and/or EHH, offering our location if HCFB felt it appropriate.

**Our Journey of Hope:** Both Our Journey of Hope (OJOH) and Gateway for Cancer Research (to which GCUMC donated last year) are sponsored by the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. Ken and Joan Priest will formally introduce this ministry to our congregation and community on June 25. OJOH is a HOPE ministry, and includes an eight-week training

class. While it involves prayer, counsel, visits, and assistance, it is centered on bringing God's hope to patients and their caregivers, family, and friends. It will NOT replace Stephen Ministry. This ministry will involve the community as well as those in our congregation. More information can be found at <http://www.ourjourneyofhope.com/ministry>.

One question Ken had involved the money that remains in account 201.120, titled Gateway for Cancer Research. Most of the \$1,315.10 in that account is from the March 2017 communion offering, which was identified in the bulletin as for the Gateway for Cancer Research. Since as the church's cancer "representative" Ken had intended that the funds go to Our Journey of Hope, he asked those present whether it could be used instead for Our Journey of Hope, especially in light of the fact that Cancer Treatment Centers of America sponsors both organizations. Funds donated to Gateway would go to Illinois and would be used exclusively for clinical trials, while funds donated to Our Journey would be used locally by our new cancer ministry. Those present agreed that it would be nice to keep the money here and be used by the new ministry. However, Jeanne Shrout advised that since it is a designated account, it is best not to use it for any other purpose. She said there likely would be no problem, but it is better to be cautious and use it solely for the purpose designated.

After the meeting, Dana contacted Maryanne Carrico, who maintains the donations book for the Seekers 2 Sunday School class. They donated their March weekly offerings to "Cancer Care Ministry." Those in the class understood that this was Ken's and Joan's new ministry, and NOT Gateway. The amount they donated was \$74.10. They request that their \$74.10 not be forwarded to Gateway and instead be used by Our Journey of Hope.

### **ADJOURNING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm with a prayer by Pastor Mike. There will be no Church Council meeting in June. The next scheduled Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson  
Recording Secretary