

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Church Council Meeting
September 25, 2017 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman)	Judy Boyer	Jeanne Shrout
Pastor Mike Weaver	Alfred Current	Linda Starck
	John Furtado	Rick Starck
		Dana Hanson

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

This is Counsel's first meeting after Hurricane Irma passed through the eastern side of Charlotte County on Sunday, September 10.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of any necessary corrections to the minutes of the 7/24/2017 meeting. There was no meeting in August.

EXPERIENCE (Meet)

New Sunday School Class: This new class is held in #109 at 11:00am and is usually led by Kelly Weaver and Liza McDaniel. Currently, they are viewing and discussing the *Nooma* videos by Rob Bell. The 11:00 discussion group that usually meets in #201 has joined them until further notice.

Closet of Hope: Pastor Mike said there have been discussions about providing an activity related to the Closet – volunteers to engage with the children while their parents are “shopping” at the Closet. It could be something like being with them on the playground or bringing them into the serving room for some inside activity. The idea is being positively received.

EMBRACE (Know)

Worship: Pastor Mike advised that so far this year, we have had 6 professions of faith, 1 reaffirmation of faith, and 10 baptisms. This reflects positively on our WIG (Wildly Important Goal) for 2017-2018: a 10% increase in average worship attendance. He is considering having a healing or prayer service. It will be a topic of discussion at the Worship Committee meeting on Friday.

ENGAGE (Serve)

Outreach:

All Pro Dad ~ Pastor Mike spoke with the principal of Myakka River Elementary, Ms. Shepard, about starting a chapter of this well-received, faith-based program. Their website says the following about All Pro Dad (<http://allprodad.com>):

All Pro Dad is on a mission to help you love and lead your family well. Be a hero to your kids. Join us.

We are a group of people passionately committed to bringing intentional focus to fathers around the world. Our message will inspire you to embrace who you are, give you tenderness of heart, and boldness of character as a dad and husband. We are consistently here for you to provide guidance and practical tips in raising your kids in a life giving way.

All Pro Dad's Day provides an opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their children that will strengthen their relationship, as well as benefit the child's school and the entire community.

Their website indicates there are chapters at Englewood Elementary and SKY Academy in Englewood, and Neil Armstrong and Liberty Elementary in Port Charlotte. The cost is \$50 a year. After discussion, Ms. Shepard indicated she would be happy to have a chapter at Myakka River Elementary. Pastor Mike said he is willing to lead the sessions, both as a father and as a pastor, along with a couple other dads from our congregation whom he believes might be interested. Everybody agreed it would be a good outreach.

Parents Night Out ~ Pastor Mike said Englewood UMC and GCUMC are "taking turns" offering PNO to the community.

Elementary Schools ~ Breakfasts were delivered to the teachers at both Vineland and Myakka River Elementary Schools just before the school year started; they were well received at both schools. Alfred and Pastor Mike will be meeting with School Board Member Kim Amontree this Wednesday.

Boy Scouts ~ Alfred said that over the weekend, the Boy Scouts helped to clean up areas of Boca Grande. They have decided NOT to sell popcorn any more because the amount received by the troop is so small. They are checking into selling wreaths, but a decision has not yet been made. Doreen said her experience with wreaths is that several different sizes are usually offered, with the cost being dependent on the size. They still want to have a Cub Scout feeder pack join them at GCUMC.

Girl Scouts ~ Jeanne advised that because of a lack of adult leadership, they are now meeting at our church on only the first and third Thursdays of the month. She said Amy Cabral assists Trish Chamberlain with the Girl Scouts. Amy works at the El Jobean Post Office and can probably provide any information we need.

Thanksgiving Dinner ~ The need for a leader/coordinator was discussed during the meeting. The day after our Council meeting, Don Teague indicated a willingness to lead this community dinner. Don will check with another person about co-leading with him. (Jeanne mentioned that although emails have been sent to Don, where he lives during the summer does not have internet connection, and he has not received any of the emails.)

Pig Pickin' ~ Alfred asked if the church was still interested in holding this event. Since no one has stepped forward to lead the Arts & Crafts Fair, Alfred would have his choice of when to offer it. Alfred asked if consideration had been given to asking the Crafty Ladies to offer their creations during the Pig Pickin'. All thought that would be a good idea. Alfred feels it would be better to hold the Pig Pickin' in February to give the church more time to work on it without the Christmas season also commanding time and money.

Barn Sale & Crafty Ladies Holiday Bazaar ~ This will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11, from 9am to 3pm. As with other years, donations can be taken to the Barn on Thursday mornings.

Harry Chapin Mobile Food Pantry ~ That schedule remains the same – the first Tuesday of every month from 3pm to 5pm. Each month, 10 to 12 volunteers from our church are needed to assist. The first month the HCMFP was at our church, only one sheet of paper was needed for registrants' names. The second time they came, on September 5, three sheets were required on which to record all of the registrant's names. Word is getting out!

Trunk or Treat ~ This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 28, from 4-6pm. Pastor Mike said we plan to offer similar activities as what was held last year – free hot dogs & drinks, bounce house, etc.

Team Cuba: After Irma skimmed the north side of Cuba, Dan Christopherson (our district's coordinator with Cuban churches) received an email from Pastor Jose Ramon in the Sancti Spiritus District:

About us the Hurricane damaged the whole island, more in the north of all of our island. Today I hope to upload a video on YouTube about the damaged in our province. Some people lost everything, others part or the roof or total, others they got all things wet (mattresses, TV), they were spoiled, how little they had. Most of our province has no electricity and not water too. Imagine! Praying for our Cuba and our people.

Pastor Jose's video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxJJHCbcFmw>.

Jeanne reported that despite the problems with which Cubans are now dealing, they are already praying for those of us here in the United States who were affected by Irma. Dan Christopherson said that minutes which can be purchased to use on their cell phones are hard to come by and very limited right now in Cuba. Jeanne suggested we check into purchasing minutes for them here in the United States – an easier task than if we were in Cuba. To do that, we need to know the phone numbers and their cell phone carriers.

Linda said that in addition to more water filtration systems going on the next Agape Flight out of Venice, they are also taking hurricane relief items to Cuba. In fact, Dan's recent newsletter said that, effective immediately, he and other visitors to Cuba will only take money for the churches. They will no longer take any items with them, which must now be sent via Agape Flights.

Finance: John Furtado advised that we have met our \$40,000-a-month requirement in only January and April this year. However, we are only spending about 87% of each month's budget. As a result, we did not have to pull out of the Reserve Fund until August, when \$6,000 was withdrawn. At the end of August, we were \$20,000 behind that same time last year. The Reserve Fund right now contains \$29,250.

We continue to receive money for the Audio-Visual Fund. Although there is about \$3,500 left in that fund, we have not yet purchased any speakers for the sanctuary or a new keyboard. Since one bank of lights was damaged during Irma, we will have to pay for that repair work. There is \$838 in the Dixon Sound Booth Memorial Fund.

Last week, John Dorotics suggested to John Furtado that we ask people to adopt a door or window so that some type of hurricane protection for doors and windows can be purchased for the entire church. Those present thought this would be a good idea.

Trustees: Pastor Mike advised that the Crafty Ladies have hired Mike Lackney to complete the cleanup of, and make any necessary repairs to, Oaks Cove. It had 2 inches of standing water in the first floor after Irma. It was suggested that we have it checked professionally for mold that may have been missed. Doreen said the ladies were able to salvage about 90% of their materials and inventory.

Rick Starck advised that no more money will be put into the portables, unless there is a safety issue. They are, however, going to change the light fixtures in #201 to use LED bulbs which will be pulled and reused when that portable is demolished. Several water-spotted tiles that have been brought to Rick's attention were actually spotted prior to Irma.

The Men's Group was cleaning up hurricane debris just a couple days after Irma and did a mighty-fine job! Thanks, Guys!

SPR: Linda advised that SPR has determined that the pastor's salary for the year 2018 should be \$70,000 plus \$3,000 for expense reimbursement, the same as this year. Pastor Mike has declined any increase in salary. All Counsel members present approved these figures.

Pastor Mike reported that Sarah Taylor, our new Youth Director, is doing a great job and has already increased the number of youth who attend programs on Sundays and Wednesdays. Sarah is planning a Hymn Sing & Dinner fundraiser.

The day after the Council meeting, Sarah posted on Facebook:

We'll be having a parent/student meeting Sunday [October 1] at 5pm to talk about the upcoming youth programs. We'll have pizza and take a look at the calendar for the next four months, discuss fundraising opportunities as well as possible mission trip opportunities for next summer among other things!

OLD BUSINESS

Good News Club: The buy-in to establish this program is about \$1,000 a year. The All Pro Dad program at \$50 a year is much more economical and is just as good a program. We decided to go forward with All Pro Dad, and not the Good News Club.

Charge Conference: This year's conference will be held on Sunday, October 22, at 3pm, at Englewood UMC. Because of delays caused by Irma, Conference has not had an opportunity to consider either our cell-tower proposal or the sale of our Matecumbe property in South Gulf Cove, which is a prerequisite to going forward on either issue.

Church Software: Jeanne advised that when she and Dawn read about this topic in the July Council minutes, they were surprised. They are completely satisfied with the current program

they are using to keep track of church affairs and would rather not change to a different program.

Facility Expansion: We have too many problems and considerations on our current plate, so this will be tabled for a while.

Church Dinner Encounter for Fresh Expressions: Because of Irma, this was cancelled until further notice.

Vision Retreat Follow-Ups: The meeting for this, originally scheduled for September 24, was cancelled. It will be rescheduled. Two of the three groups have maintained contact and continued discussions and ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

Post-Hurricane Help: Pastor Mike reported that several churches and their communities in the Southwest District (especially in Naples and Immokalee) will require continued, long-term help after Irma. He posted on Facebook things that they need, such as pillows, diapers, powdered formulas, and bedding.

Alfred mentioned that he recently spoke with the president of the Arcadia Rotary Club. She is concerned with the end of January and February, for those whose income depends on picking oranges and other fruit that has now been rendered not edible by Irma. When the FEMA money runs out and other money being doled out now is gone, there will be nothing left for those people. Her suggestion is to hang back and wait until the next period of critical need arises. Pastor Mike said that is similar to what UMCOR experiences – just as much assistance is needed several months after a weather tragedy as is needed in the days immediately after it.

Pot-Luck Dinners: Jeanne advised that after the pot luck dinner on Sunday, September 17, there was no one in charge to handle clean-up. As a result, by the time Wednesday arrived, there were some major problems, the worst of which were:

- Coffee remained in each of the coffee pots.
- Dirty dishes had been put in the dishwasher and the doors were closed. When the doors were opened on Wednesday, the stench was unbelievable.

We MUST make arrangements for clean-up whenever the kitchen is used for any reason.

Basic Disaster Ministry Training: This training will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 10am to 3pm at Englewood UMC. Pastor Mike hopes that some of us can attend. He feels that GCUMC should develop a Disaster Team which can help lead us after a storm such as Irma. The only communication avenues he had available after Irma were our outside electronic sign, the church's basic, telephone answering system, and social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.). He said there are programs available which are not too expensive by which automated phone calls can be made to advise about something, and we might consider using one of them in the future.

Many of our churches did not have a Sunday service one or two weeks after Irma, but GCUMC was able to put together a single, combined worship service followed by a pot-luck luncheon, one week later on September 17. Our power was restored around 4pm on Wednesday

September 13. Then facility and equipment inspections were made. We are celebrating that we had any service at all!

Town Hall Meeting: Bishop Carter will be conducting a live streaming Town Hall meeting tomorrow evening (Tuesday, September 26, at 6:30). Doreen felt it was beneficial to hear him last year, and is sure he will have plenty to tell us since both he and D.S. Rini have been boots-on-the-ground since Hurricane Irma came through.

ADJOURNING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm with prayer by Pastor Mike. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary