

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Church Conference
Sunday, November 9, 2014 – 3:00pm

Presiding Elder: Pastor Jeff Smith, First UMC, Clewiston

Attendees:

Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly	Sandy Doty	Marsha Oakley	Shirley Smith
Doreen Alvarez	Scott Folsom	David Pentz	Rick Starck
Donna Basso	John Furtado	Gayla Pentz	Carol Teague
Ron Basso	Charles Hilton	Joan Priest	Dana Hanson
Marilyn Calladine	Mary Hilton	Ken Priest	
Ralph Calladine	Rev. Bill Oakley	Jeanne Shrout	

This year's cluster conference was held at Edgewater UMC in Port Charlotte. It started with worship at 3:00pm, with the sermon being delivered by our District Superintendent Rini Hernandez. The churches then separated into breakout groups to handle issues specific to each church. GCUMC's breakout meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Jeff.

Rev. Bill said that he and Kim prayerfully considered whether they should request a new assignment. However, neither of them felt the nudge to move to a different church. In fact, Rev. Bill said they are excited about the new missions that GCUMC has implemented. As soon as we paid off the church mortgage, the Nicaro church was adopted as our sister church from Cuba. Then we adopted a Boy Scout Troop. Most recently, we were pushed to offer the Alpha program. He and Kim are glad they are still with GCUMC to see these recent developments.

Recording Secretary: The vote was unanimous in approving Dana Hanson as the Recording Secretary for 2015.

Attendance: Our average attendance is up a little this year. Rick Starck, Church Council Chairman, said he believes that is due to the new and exciting things we are doing. He thinks the upward trend will continue.

Removal from Membership Rolls: The first- and second-year lists were reviewed to determine whether certain individuals should be removed from the membership rolls of GCUMC. Many on the two lists have relocated, but have not moved their membership to a new church. It was explained that, even though an individual may maintain contact through Facebook or other means, they can only be removed as members by (1) them asking to be removed, or (2) the church voting to remove those on the second-year list. Two members on the second-year list, Jim and Wanda Arnett, reside in North Port, but are homebound. It was determined that they should not be removed as members. All present approved removing from the rolls the members indicated on the second-year list, except for Jim and Wanda Arnett.

Missional Vital Signs Goals: Most of our goals which were set five years ago have not been met. The goals should be re-evaluated and adjusted. Pastor Jeff advised that several churches set lofty goals for themselves and have been unable to achieve them. Regarding the Salty

Service goals, several comments were made. Often times something a person does is not considered by that individual as actually qualifying for “salty service.” Some believe that God knows what they do, and they don’t have to “brag” about it. Many people who submit a salty service card are probably entitled to put in several cards for everything they do over the week. Although the “numbers” do not necessarily support it, GCUMC’s congregation is definitely living up to its mission statement -- *Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus*.

Imagine No Malaria: The key word in this undertaking is “eradicating” malaria. While Conference has asked that each church’s goal be submitted by November 21, 2014, the deadline for all payments under the goal is December 2015. Because of the importance of this project, GCUMC’s congregation needs to be more informed about the mission. As a result, no goal has yet been established. Our goal will be determined within the next few weeks.

Pastor’s 2015 Compensation: Rev. Bill’s proposed, total compensation package for 2015 is \$103,529, a net increase of \$8 over his package for 2014. After a short discussion, all present voted in favor of this compensation package for 2015.

Apportionments: Our Apportionments for 2014 total \$39,365, and we fully intend to pay the remaining amount due for this year. Our Apportionments for 2015 are \$40,631. All present agreed that the balance due for 2014 plus the amount due for 2015 will be paid in full.

Lay Servants: Shirley Smith is continuing her pursuit of becoming a Local Pastor. All present voted in favor of accepting and supporting Shirley’s candidacy for renewal. New certifications for Lay Servants are presented for Gayla Pentz, Mary Hilton, Susie Cramer von Clausbruch, Bonnie Wollmacher, Joan Priest, Vic Costello, and Kathleen St. Martin. Continuation certifications for Lay Servants are presented for Sandy Doty, Phill Kolbe, and David Pentz. All voted to approve and support the new and continuing Lay Servants.

Lay Leadership: Rev. Bill announced several pen-and-ink changes to the 2015 Leadership Roster which was distributed to those present, and indicated it will be reprinted. He confirmed that no two individuals listed in the SPR committee were related. The Leadership Roster contained in the Conference package also has corrections which need to be made. All present indicated acceptance of the 2015 Leadership Roster as changed by Rev. Bill.

Adjourning: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00pm with a prayer by Pastor Jeff.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary