

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Finance Committee Meeting
January 21, 2014 – 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Furtado (Chairman), John McGuire (Vice-Chairman),
Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly, Jeanne Shrou, Ken Priest, Rick Starck, Karen Current,
Ilene Sokolich, Pat Hansell, Betty Hansell, Dana Hanson

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

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS MINUTES

There is one correction to the minutes from the November 18, 2013, meeting which was not identified during the meeting. Under "Budget for 2014," the third bulleted item is changed to the following, by deleting the last sentence and replacing it with the new sentence in italics:

- The Trustees asked Dawn to set aside \$200 each month out of parsonage rental income to pay for the approximate \$2,400 in property taxes on the parsonage. This is a new expenditure since it is being rented and not currently being used as a parsonage. Dawn does not know if the parsonage property taxes are included in the budget. ~~If not, they need to be added.~~ *If they are, they should NOT be.*

REPORTS

Review of 2013: John Furtado reported that, in all of 2013, \$16,099.42 was received into the Reserve Fund. He pointed out that we have yet to reach our yearly goal of putting into the Reserve Fund one month's amount of expenses, and we tend to start pulling from the Reserve Fund in July. The total amount of spendable income received during 2013 was \$362,645.12, NOT including any amounts transferred into the General Fund from the Reserve Fund. In December 2013, a total of \$128,230.25 was received from ALL sources toward debt reduction. *A special Thank You to the Matching Program donors!*

2014 Financial Picture: John Furtado reported that during the first three week in January, we received a little over \$28,000 in spendable income, plus over \$1,600 for the Reserve Fund. Based on the 2014 Budget (as of 11/20/2013) of \$443,926 dividing by 12 months, we require \$37,000 each month to meet the budget. John reminded us that over the last two years, our overall yearly expenses have not reached the total budget figure.

Dana Hanson advised that the library book sales which occurred at last weekend's Arts & Crafts Fair totaled \$82, which was turned in for the General Budget that morning. Also, when the donation boxes for coffee were checked, they had well over the \$1-\$3 usually in them after Sunday mornings – they contained over \$64, which came almost entirely from the Arts & Crafts Fair attendees.

Betty Hansell advised that the Crafty Ladies made about \$3,500 at the Arts & Crafts Fair. The biggest-selling item is the microwave bowls, which can also double as an ice cream bowl. Between the crafts fair on November 8 & 9 and the crafts fair this past weekend, over 1,300 have been sold.

Reserve Fund Withdrawals:

	2011	2012	2013		2011	2012	2013
Jan.	\$0	\$0	\$0	July	\$7,500	\$1,000	\$8,500
Feb.	\$0	\$0	\$0	Aug.	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$9,200
March	*\$0	\$0	\$0	Sept.	\$10,000	\$4,500	\$0
April	\$0	\$0	\$0	Oct.	\$0	\$4,000	\$3,500
May	\$0	\$0	\$0	Nov.	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$0
June	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	Dec.	\$0	\$1,000	\$0
TOTAL					\$33,000	\$21,500	\$21,200

*In March 2011, \$4,335 was withdrawn to prepare the parsonage for rental. That amount was subsequently replenished out of rental income that was received.

Reserve Fund Balance 1/1/2014: \$5,057.52. On January 1, 2013, the Reserve Fund had \$9,952.22, so we are starting this year with roughly half that amount.

Mortgage Balance 1/1/2014: \$152,765.42

Debt Reduction: The amount received in December (\$128,230.25) will be forwarded to the mortgage holder with our February 2014 payment of \$1,455.25 (approximately \$1,000 of which is principal). This will leave a principal mortgage balance of about \$23,500. So far in January, \$935 was received for debt reduction, and there are still individuals paying on their 1% pledge. It was opined that perhaps the 1% Club and others in the church would consider pushing up their payments to enable the church to pay off the balance of the mortgage within the next few months.

OLD BUSINESS

Expansion of Facilities: Pat Hansell informed the group that he performed some research into our possible expansion which has been a topic of discussion recently. He discovered that a church in similar circumstances and location would pay about \$160 a square foot to construct a building. He and Rev. Bill measured the sanctuary, which is about 7,500 square feet. If an education building of a similar size was constructed, it would cost \$1.2 million. If that full amount was financed, it would generate \$800,000 of interest, resulting in a total cost of \$2 million to have a 7,500 square foot education building.

Ken Priest advised that the church started 28 years ago with only 45 individuals, and if they had handled things based solely on what they thought they could afford, we would still be worshipping

in Oaks Cove; further, that GCUMC has always had budget problems, but with faith, they have made it through every year. John McGuire said that when he first joined this committee, he looked on it solely as a finance committee; but after being on the committee for a few years, and especially after what happened during the recent debt reduction campaign, he looks upon it more as a faith committee. Rick Starck advised that this will be a topic of discussion at our Vision Retreat on February 15; he expressed concern that the only sinking-fund we have (i.e., a fund into which money is placed in anticipation of future expenses and repairs) relates to the air conditioning system. Two other issues raised were the need for a paid audio-visual employee or an associate pastor.

Rev. Bill pointed out that the entire congregation needs to consider prayerfully the issue of expansion, and then make a commitment to whatever the answer turns out to be.

Ministry Fair on Super Sunday: John Furtado is preparing a tri-fold poster board with pictures of the current Finance Committee members and other finance-related information. Possible snacks mentioned include mints, chocolate coins, and Million-Dollar Bars ... or something else. A suggested slogan was "growing in faith thru finances." Individuals indicated they would be able to help man the table.

Sound Booth: There is \$7,800 set aside for upgrading and expanding the sound booth. The trustees are contacting individuals in an attempt to hire someone to perform the job at less than \$12,000. Electrical wiring is part of the upgrade, but will likely be handled by someone other than the person who does the construction.

\$5,000 Bequest: The church has not yet received its bequest from the Estate of Ethel Rugg, who died on May 4, 2013. Admittedly, it may not be received for one or two years.

Health Tax Care Credit: John McGuire asked if this complex issue (mentioned in the November 18, 2013, minutes) has been resolved. The person who can answer this question is Dawn Tesauro, who is out sick this evening.

Oaks Cove Rental: Although probably a trustee item, the question was raised about its recent rental to our new custodian Mike Lackney. It was noted that there had been discussions about not renting the second floor anymore and using it as an education or meeting room. Several reasons for renting it were explained:

- We face a major obstacle if we try to use it as a meeting room because it does NOT meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- There is a security measure in having someone on-site at all times.
- Mike was cleaning Oaks Cove and a homeless person came upstairs, walked in the door, and was surprised to see Mike there. The belief was that he and/or others may have been squatting there while it was vacant.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Communion Offering Schedule: Because the children’s weekly Sunday School contributions are donated to Heifer International, it was decided not to include Heifer in the communion schedule. After discussion, it was agreed that the monthly communion offerings would be earmarked as follows, subject to change:

January	“Communion” account (a spendable amount)
February	Englewood Helping Hands
March	American Cancer – Relay for Life
April	Conference Special
May	VBS
June	Englewood Helping Hands
July	Pastor’s Discretionary Fund
August	One Great Hour of Sharing
September	[open month]
October	World Communion
November	Englewood Helping Hands
December	Inglenook Assisted Living Facilities

It was suggested that individuals who have gift cards might consider donating them to the church. They could be used for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, the intention of which is to give the pastor complete discretion and authority to provide confidential financial support for persons in need.

Pig Pickin’ & Bake Sale: The first time this event will be held is this Friday, January 24. A discussion ensued regarding what to do with the net proceeds from the event. Alfred Current is the chef-in-charge; he has always looked upon these events as outreach and faith-building, with fundraising as a by-product. He has paid a substantial amount of out-of-pocket expenses in preparing for this first event, and those expenses will be reimbursed to him. Alfred has indicated that he would like the net proceeds to be used for the General Fund. Rick pointed out that this event will be similar to our Thanksgiving Dinner for the community, in that each time the Pig Pickin’ is held, a starter fund will be needed. It was decided that Alfred should be reimbursed; a starter fund should be established with Alfred’s input as to what that amount should be; and the balance should go into the Reserve Fund (which eventually is used for the General Fund). This proposal will be presented to the Administrative Council at its meeting Monday evening.

SUMMARY

Finance Committee Lights for Ad Council:

Red:	➤ Reserve Fund
Yellow:	➤ Scams & Frauds Program still needs to be scheduled; new scams have emerged and southwest Florida is one of the target areas
Green:	➤ Debt Reduction

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm with a prayer by Rev. Bill. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at 7:00pm, since Monday is a holiday.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson