

**Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**  
*Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus*  
**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**January 20, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

**Attendees:** John Furtado (Chairman), Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly, Doreen Alvarez, Jeanne Shrou, Ken Priest, Joan Priest, Ilene Sokolich, Gail Borden, Dana Hanson

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

**CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no corrections proposed to the minutes from the December 15, 2014, meeting.

**REPORTS**

*Review of 2014 Finances:* The amount of spendable income received during the year through donations is the largest amount received in the history of the church. The year's summary of income, expenses, and the reserve fund is presented below:

\$391,848.60	Spendable income received thru donations
<u>18,500.00</u>	Transfers to general fund from reserve fund
\$410,348.60	Total spendable income
\$444,301.00	Annual budget
<u>-398,120.84</u>	Actual amount spent
\$ 46,180.16	Budget not spent
\$ 5,057.52	Reserve fund balance 1/1/2014
17,722.79	Congregation donations to the reserve fund
6,073.34	Proceeds from Jan. 2014 Pig Pickin' put into reserve fund
5,000.00	Amount received from a probate estate put into reserve fund
1,253.70	Amount transferred from Thanksgiving Fund into reserve fund
<u>-18,500.00</u>	Transfers from reserve fund to general fund
\$ 16,607.35	Reserve fund balance 12/31/2014

We ended the year with a \$9,441.47 balance in the primary checking account. John reported the following regarding specific accounts:

- 320.026, Facility Expansion: Year-end balance is \$6,895, part of which represents continued donations to mortgage reduction which are placed into this account.
- 320.028, Facility Up Keep: Year-end balance is \$4,017, part of which represents the previous mortgage payment of \$1,400.
- 320.007, A/C Fund: Year-end balance is \$5,000 (\$200 each month), which represents amounts put aside for future air conditioning needs.

2015 Finances: The goal of the Reserve Fund is to set aside one-month's amount of expenses, to cover times when a hurricane might strike or when our donations are lower (such as in the summer & early fall). Based on the 2015 annual budget of \$457,385, one month's amount of budgeted expenses equals \$38,115. This compares to 2014, when the monthly average of actual expenditures was \$33,177.

There are two major reasons for the increase in the monthly amount. First, it was determined that two staff salaries should be increased to bring them into line with what other churches are paying; the increases are being made over several years. Second, a part-time, audio-visual technician is being hired. Sean Priest has donated countless hours over the past year to the A/V details of our church –for which GCUMC is eternally grateful. However, between his donated time and his full-time job, he is being worn down and experiencing burnout, and his personal life has become non-existent. Because A/V aspects are becoming a larger and larger part of the church, it was determined that the new position is needed. The new job was recently announced on the South West District's website, and Staff Parish hopes to fill the position by the end of February.

As of January 20, the balance in the Reserve Fund has risen to \$18,382, and the amount received toward spendable income is \$25,896. Although there is one Sunday left in the month, it appears our required amount will be short. However, with the \$9,441 year-end balance in the checking account, we should be okay.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2015 Communion Schedule: The current communion schedule for 2015 is:

January	Communion account	July	Closet of Hope
February	Englewood Helping Hands	August	One Great Hour of Sharing
March	American Cancer – Relay for Life	September	[open]
April	Conference Special	October	World Communion
May	VBS	November	Cuba Sister Church
June	Englewood Helping Hands	December	Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Scams & Frauds Presentation: John has discussed the need for this presentation with Jo Ann Hopkins (Chairman of both the Board of Trustees & Education). She plans to contact the Sheriff's Office to see if their representative can present the program. On a somewhat related issue, Jo Ann found a lengthy, on-line package involving end-of-life matters and issues, which she would like to provide to those who are interested. Consideration is also being given to asking Ken & Joan Priest's nephew to join in that program to present information on wills and trusts.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Imagine No Malaria:* In the 1950s, malaria was eliminated in the United States, but in Africa, it continues to kill one person a minute. The United Methodist Church has taken on this ministry in an effort to eradicate malaria from the world. All churches have been asked to consider what they can raise for this cause. As stated on the church's website (<http://www.umcom.org/imagine-no-malaria>):

In 2007, the World Health Organization estimated there were more than 1,000,000 malaria-related fatalities each year. By 2012, the number had been reduced to 627,000. ... Imagine No Malaria is taking a comprehensive and proactive approach in the fight against malaria. Our four-pronged method of prevention, treatment, education, and communications is empowering communities across Sub-Saharan Africa with a diverse set of tools to beat this killer disease. ... Fortunately, we are not alone in the fight against malaria. The United Methodist Church has partnered with organizations such as the United Nations Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight Malaria, Aids and Tuberculosis, and others. Together with leading global health organizations, we are imagining and working to bring about a world with no malaria. ... The people of The United Methodist Church have come together to set an audacious goal – we are aiming to raise \$75 million and impact hundreds of thousands of lives. We intend to be a major partner in ending needless death and suffering from a preventable, treatable, and beatable disease.

The church's website indicates that they have raised \$64 million of the \$75 million goal. GCUMC has responded (or will shortly) that its goal will be \$2,500.

*Thrive, SW District Annual Training:* This year's training will be held on Saturday, February 21, from 8:30am-3:00pm, at First UMC in Punta Gorda. The cost is \$5, payable at door. Individuals can [register online](#) where there is also information on the schedule and the classes. At the end of these minutes is the description of each class.

Regarding the Finance course that is being offered, the Methodist Church is becoming alarmingly concerned about the recent spate of embezzlement of church funds. Further, the Florida Conference is having difficulties obtaining insurance because of certain problems. Apparently some churches do not have a good system of checks and balances. NOTE -- GCUMC has an excellent system of checks and balances!! The challenge is getting everyone to follow them!

*320.009, Light Fixture Fund:* The balance in this fund is \$7,709, and is meant for wherever the church needs to replace and/or upgrade lights and fixtures in a more energy-efficient manner. The Trustees have already determined that white lighting can be placed in the sanctuary for (it was believed) around \$2,500.

Using dimmable, colored LED lighting would be more expensive, but would add an ambiance that would greatly improve the worship environment. Although a substantial gift has been received which can be used for this purpose, an additional amount from account 320.009 might be needed. Those present agreed that this account could be used. Ken Priest pointed out that we already own a controlling board that can handle these different types of lighting and dimming.

Chrysalis: As a member of the Youth Council, Doreen advised that there is one teenage girl who will be going to a Chrysalis weekend (the youth version of the adult Walk to Emmaus) in the near future. In addition to Scott, three other youth will also be going to work on the Chrysalis team. According to the Southeast Florida Chrysalis website, there is a Girls' Weekend from January 30 to February 1 in West Palm Beach (<http://www.seflemmaus.org/Chrysalis/Home.html>).

Currently, there is \$1,043 in account 320.014, the United Methodist Youth Fellowship Fund, and the cost for four youth to go is \$360, \$90 each. Using the church van would be an additional expense, if it is used, unless the participants cover the cost; it is believed Scott would be the driver. Although six is the minimum number usually considered for use of the van, the five individuals who will be going have luggage as well.

It was suggested that the youth consider some fundraising events instead of relying completely on donations from the congregation. Admittedly, they might not raise a huge amount of money, but anything is better than nothing and the effort expended provides one with a sense of ownership with regard to an event. It was agreed that the church could cover the \$360 if needed.

Vision Retreat: Because of the crush of weekend events in January and February, the Vision Retreat is being postponed from February 28 to an as yet undetermined date. Part of the problem is that our illustrious pastor, his wife, and some other church leaders will be traveling in Israel from March 10-19.

### **SUMMARY**

*Finance Committee Lights & Resolutions for Church Council:*

Red:	➤ None
Yellow:	➤ None
Green:	➤ A financially successful 2014!
Resolutions:	➤ None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with a prayer by Rev. Bill. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at 7:00pm. (Monday is a holiday.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson

## **CLASSES AT THRIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING Punta Gorda – Saturday, February 21, 8:30am-3:00pm**

### ACQUIRING THE EVANGELISTIC PASSION

All Christians are called to participate in God's mission in the world, but where to start? How can I share Christ with others? What do I say? How can I overcome my fears to share God's Word? How do I get that burning passion for the least, the last and the lost? We will try to answer these and other questions during our time together. *Presenter: Rev. Dr. Rinaldo Hernandez*

### FINANCE

This workshop will cover basic topics important to the financial leadership of your church. We will discuss budgeting, bookkeeping, payroll responsibilities, and the fiscal policies and procedures manual. There will be a discussion of REAL problems at churches; embezzlements, lawsuits and the need for Audits. There will be time allocated at the end for a question and answer session. *Presenter: Mickey Wilson*

### FRESH EXPRESSION

Fresh Expressions is a model of doing and being church which includes a special focus on reaching new people, in new places, in new ways. A "fresh expression of church" is defined as "a new form of church for a fast-changing world that serves those outside the existing church, listens to people and enters their culture, makes discipleship a priority and intentionally forms Christian community." Examples include cafe churches, cell churches (house fellowship groups), midweek worship congregations, youth congregations and so-called "Messy Church" groups.

Fresh Expressions began informally twenty years ago in the Church of England with the aim of sharing the love of Christ with all of God's people. Fresh Expressions Florida began a year ago with a "dream team" tasked to pray and study together about how FE could look in Florida. Since then FE Florida hosted their first retreat and identified some folks who have the gifts to begin a journey in discerning beginning a FE. In many ways Fresh Expressions is an improvisational movement of the Holy Spirit in that each FE will look different and move and grow at different paces.

FE Florida has created partnerships with FE UK, FE US, and Duke Divinity School. Fresh Expressions Florida looks forward to working with clergy and laity in the forming of new communities of faith through the values of entering new cultures, listening, forming community, worship, and making disciples. This workshop is for all Laity and Clergy who feel called to being a Fresh Expression of church in their own community. *Presenter: Rev. Roy Terry*

### FUNDAMENTALS OF YOUTH MINISTRY: RELATIONSHIPS

Youth Ministry is a ministry based on relationships. Whether you are paid, volunteer, new or "experienced" in youth ministry, you must establish relationships to succeed. *Presenter: Josh Lyle*

### FUNDAMENTALS OF YOUTH MINISTRY: STRUCTURE

What should your youth ministry look like? What are some basic things that must be in place? *Presenter: Dan Currenberger*

### GUEST TO DISCIPLE

This workshop will help the church evaluate the current visitor system and then develop a self-guiding process to lead a guest once they have entered the church campus. What is the next step? We want to not only attract guests, but then guide and explore with them their personal faith journey to becoming a fully devoted, serving Disciple for Jesus, the church, and the community. *Presenter: Janet Earls*

### MINISTRY PROTECTION

As servant leaders and the Keepers of God's House trustees are charged with a wide variety of responsibilities in managing church property. Join us for an interactive discussion about the top issues and responsibilities faced as you fulfill your call of leadership and provide support to the vision and mission of your church. *Presenter: LaNita Battles*

### REACH!

God calls us to be a community of Christ followers with a passionate and contagious love for God, for one another, and for our neighbors. This workshop will cover transferrable principles, processes and examples of how to reach people so they may experience the love of God through the body of Christ and then have the opportunity to begin a life-transforming relationship with Jesus and the local church. There will be a special emphasis on meeting felt needs and relieving suffering in Jesus' name. *Presenter: Rev. Wes Olds*