

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Finance Committee Meeting
March 16, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Furtado (Chairman), John McGuire (Vice-Chairman), Doreen Alvarez, 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 February 17, 2015, meeting.

In General: There are four terms that we tend to use interchangeably: general ministries, general fund, spendable income, and operating expenses. These four terms mean the same thing: paying for the day-to-day operations of the church (electricity, water, mortgage, salaries, telephone, taxes, insurance, etc.), not necessarily for any specific charitable activity or event.

FINANCIAL STATUS

John Furtado reported the following:

Endowments: Paperwork is in process for the church to receive its first two endowments. Later in the meeting it was noted that additional information should probably be added to the church's website about the endowment program, including a link to the endowment package. As created, GCUMC's endowment program envisions that in most instances, only the income will be used by the church, not the principal gift itself.

Spendable Income: John believes the church will be alright financially in March because during the first two weeks almost \$21,000 in spendable income was received. There are three more Sundays during which donations will be received.

Reserve Fund: The balance in the Reserve Fund (Second Mile Fund) as of 3/9/2015 is \$22,152.

Expenditures: Based on the 2015 average monthly budget of \$38,000, we needed \$76,000 in spendable income during January and February. However, only \$67,718 was received through the end of February. Despite the shortfall in spendable income, all expenses were paid, leaving \$5,050 in the checking account. (We started the year with \$9,441 in the checking account.) Historically, 90% of the budget is spent each month. So far during 2015, only 80% has been paid.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Up Keep Account: John Furtado advised that starting in November 2014, the amount of \$1,450 was placed each month into this account, and starting this month (March 2015) that

amount was increased to \$1,500. As of 2/28/2015, there is \$6,917 in the Facility Up Keep account (320.028, meant to cover major improvements, not general repairs) and \$7,570 in the Facility Expansion account (320.026, which includes donations from the 1% Club and other debt reduction donations).

John’s concern remains as to what will happen when our “northern” congregation members leave during May through November. He prepared a schedule which reflects spendable income received during January, February and March for the years 2009 through 2015. It is reflected below:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	‘09-’14 Avg.	2015
January	30,422	40,127	36,421	39,558	33,440	35,562	35,921	32,669
February	34,467	36,029	31,268	35,294	33,487	33,870	34,069	35,048
March	37,077	34,818	31,494	33,597	43,350	42,632	37,161	?

As can be seen, the amount received, even in our “good” months reflected above, has vacillated between \$30,422 and \$43,350. The amount of income received is not stable or reliable when trying to meet a \$38,000 monthly requirement. Other comments made during the ensuing discussion included:

- It would be nice if we could continue putting the \$1,500 (or even a lesser amount) aside regardless, and ask the congregation for assistance if the Reserve Fund runs dry.
- Recently, one small group read about a church which expects its members to perform annually an outreach project to the community. In addition, those who are able are expected to participate, once every five years, in a mission project outside the community, be it in another part of the state, a different state, or a different country. It has been shown that those people who meet these expectations grow in both their faith and their giving.
- Once all our budgeted expenses are being paid (including salary for the new A/V position which we are trying to fill), the Reserve Fund may be hit heavily.
- A church functions like a small business, with employees being both its biggest asset and its biggest liability.
- Whenever a plea for additional funds is made, there is always a large push the following Sunday, but it quickly falls back to its previous level.
- An analysis was made during November 2012 of a few items which could form the basis of amounts being placed into a sinking fund. Between the \$200 a month being placed into the air conditioner fund and the \$1,500 being placed into the Facility Up Keep account, we are now actually setting aside an amount suggested by that analysis, albeit not for necessarily the same items.
- Last year we switched to alternating the monthly meeting between Council and DNA. Although the visioning aspects of those meetings were worthwhile, it may have had its

drawbacks. It seems that several things which might have been brought up at one Council meeting were overlooked by the time of the next Council meeting which was a month later.

- Our CEO, God, only requires a few things: love Him, love your neighbor, and use your time, talent, & treasures to help others.

John Furtado's ultimate concern is that we should have the flexibility of not being forced to put \$1,500 into the Facility Up Keep account when the money is needed to pay bills.

QR Codes: A team needs to be established to look into creating and using a QR Code for individuals who have the inclination to use it to make donations to the church. Doreen said a QR Code Creator app can be purchased for the iPhone. The user would create the code and print it in the bulletin every week. It must link to something – ideally GCUMC's donation webpage instead of the homepage. It was noted that there are problems pulling up the website on cellphones.

Facility Expansion Task Force: Although this is technically not a finance matter, a discussion was held about the need for such a team. The initial task force would likely perform a needs analysis and feasibility study. Doreen indicated this item would be added to the next Council meeting's agenda. John asked us to prayerfully consider volunteering for this task force.

NEW BUSINESS

Audio-Visual Booth: Numerous problems have been encountered with the refurbished MAC computer that was recently obtained for use in the A/V booth. Sean Priest has been talking with individuals about fixing it and/or purchasing a new computer. If the MAC can be fixed, should it be our primary computer or a back-up? All agreed we should not limit ourselves, but we should have the capability to expand as is deemed appropriate.

SUMMARY

Finance Committee Lights for Church Council:

Red:	➤ Establishing QR codes.
Yellow:	➤ Facility Up Keep Account.
Green:	➤ We are paying our current bills.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm with a prayer by Doreen Alvarez. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 20, 2015, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson