

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Finance Committee Meeting
May 16, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Furtado (Chairman), John McGuire (Vice-Chairman), Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly, Jeanne Shrout, Dawn Tesauro, Ken Priest, Joan Priest, Skip Messenger, Gail Borden, Dana Hanson

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

There were no corrections proposed to the March minutes. There was no Finance meeting in April.

FINANCIAL STATUS

John Furtado reported the following: The amounts of spendable income (i.e., undesignated donations) received during the months of January, February, March, and April, are \$45,137, \$40,454, \$47,538, and \$37,184, respectively. It is believed that the substantial drop in April donations is primarily due to the fact that our northern friends have, for the most part, returned north. (Easter fell on March 27, and that holiday seems to be the trigger for people to start leaving.)

He advised that with two weeks remaining in May, spendable donations received so far total \$21,479. However, since our average monthly budgetary needs are \$39,800, there is a good chance that we will have to start pulling out of the Reserve Fund within the next couple of months. The current balance in the Reserve Fund is \$36,208, the highest amount we have ever had in that fund. When established, it was anticipated that this account would serve two main purposes: (1) to help us through the summer months when spendable donations are so low; and (2) to provide funds after a hurricane or other natural disaster strikes the church. We've been extremely lucky with regard to the second purpose for several years now.

Joan advised that when the new pastor arrives, his salary will be a little lower than what we are currently paying, but it is not significantly lower such that it that would have an impact on the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

New-To-Us Sanctuary Chairs: Although it had been planned to sell the old sanctuary chairs, that plan was put on hold because some were concerned that they might not clean up very well after dinners. However, the Boy Scouts' Mother's Day Brunch proved otherwise. Thoughts during the ensuing conversation included:

- The new chairs clean easily.
- We should go ahead and get rid of the old chairs – either by sale or by giving them away.
- We should remove some chairs from the back of the sanctuary over the summer.
- We should reconfigure the sanctuary seating arrangement over the summer.
- There are still about 40 new chairs in the Barn that have not yet been cleaned,

- We still need a second shed, because the new chairs are much larger, and you cannot stack as many as you could with the old chairs.
- Experience has shown that if worship services are combined, you end up losing some members who do not want their worship time changed.
- We already have one major change coming this summer, and don't need another major change at the same time.

It was ultimately decided that the Trustees should take steps to get rid of the old chairs.

Outside Electronic Sign: This new purchase is becoming closer to a reality. One \$10,000 gift has already been received. It was thought that a second \$10,000 gift would be received in May, but so far has not yet been received.

NEW BUSINESS

Parsonage: Our new pastor and his family will be living in the parsonage. They are scheduled to move in on June 28. Comments made during the following discussion:

- The current renters of the parsonage will be out by May 28. This will give us one month to complete any renovations.
- Rev. Bill advised that our church property was purchased by the Florida Conference and was titled in GCUMC's name. If GCUMC ever folds, all property will revert back to the Florida Conference. In the meantime, GCUMC is responsible for maintaining all property, including the parsonage and Oak's Cove.
- Joan has talked with our District Superintendent about taking out a low-interest loan (right now at 3.5%) from the Conference to upgrade the parsonage, with options including an equity loan or another mortgage. Finalizing *any* loan, however, would take several months.
- If renovations don't start until the money is received (the ideal situation), the Weavers would have to live somewhere else until the parsonage is done.
- Some people who are heading north or have already left have been asked whether they would be willing to allow the Weavers to live in their home for a short period of time. This is not a good idea for a family, but it is an option. In addition, any home which is temporarily used should be fully furnished and, if there is a pool, it should have the necessary fencing around the pool.
- The siding on the portables can be replaced for \$4,000 each. If we have to take out a loan for the parsonage, we should consider adding \$16,000 for this project. Skip pointed out that the back wall is falling off of #201, and might not make it through this summer.
- Jerry Spurgeon has estimated that all the necessary renovations should cost about \$48,000 – an amount which we do not have available. Some of the work can be done by our congregation's members, thus saving costs. Items which Jerry would address include cabinets, doors, ceiling lights, flooring, front door, counters, appliances, two bathrooms, etc. No part of his contract is in writing yet.
- Why can't we use the \$83,880 which is in the restricted funds? Rev. Bill said that technically, if we held a charge conference and voted to do so, we could. However, since all funds in those accounts were donated for a specific purpose, we need to be extremely cautious about using those funds for something else. If we were to use those

funds, we should treat it as a loan; i.e., we would borrow from ourselves with the obligation to pay it back. The problem lies in retaining the diligence to pay it back. As said, it can be done, but it is strongly discouraged by the Conference.

- If someone in our congregation is able to front the church the amount needed, then we could pay them back when a loan from Conference is received.
- There is an anonymous family in the church who is willing to loan GCUMC up to \$40,000 at 1.5% for the renovations.
- To do both the renovations at \$48,000 plus side the four portables at \$16,000, a total of \$64,000 would be needed.
- Funds in the Facility Up Keep account are to be used for any repairs to any part of what the church owns, not just for the sanctuary church grounds.
- The following amounts are available for renovations and portable repair:

\$15,917	Facility Up Keep, account 320.028, 4/30/2016.
\$2,600	Parsonage Maintenance/Repair, account 320.033, 4/30/2016.
\$3,500	Trustee Fund, account 320.039. \$3,500 represents a portion of the \$7,884 in that account as of 4/30/2016. The remaining amount would be retained for current expenses.
\$1,000	Already given by the Men's Club for renovations.
\$1,000	To be received from the Crafty Ladies for renovations.
\$24,017	Total available
\$64,000	Total needed for parsonage (\$48,000) & portables (\$16,000)
\$39,983	Minimum amount to be borrowed

After discussion, it was agreed by all that Finance makes the following recommendation: The trustees should sign a loan agreement with the anonymous family to borrow \$40,000 at 1.5%; once that loan is finalized, then the trustees should sign a detailed contract with Jerry Spurgeon for \$48,000 to renovate the parsonage.

[If anyone reading these minutes would like to make a donation toward renovating the parsonage and re-siding the portables, your check made payable to GCUMC noting "Facility Upkeep" would be most welcome!]

SUMMARY

Finance Committee Lights & Resolutions for Church Council:

Red:	➤ Finances for parsonage renovations & portables siding.
Yellow:	➤ Summer income levels.
Green:	➤ Reserve fund balance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm with a prayer by Rev. Bill. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 20, 2016, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dana Hanson