

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Finance Committee Meeting
April 17, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Furtado (Chairman), John McGuire (Vice-Chairman), Dawn Tesauro, Linda Starck, Rick Starck, John Rowland, Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by John Furtado. (All references to “John” are to John Furtado unless otherwise stated.)

Corrections to Previous Minutes: There were no corrections proposed to the minutes from the 3/20/2017 meeting.

In General: There are four terms that we tend to use interchangeably: general ministries, general fund, spendable income/donations, 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, etc.), not necessarily for any specific charitable activity or event.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The total budget for 2017 is \$486,206. The average spendable income needed each month is \$40,517, or \$9,350 each week. John reported that with two weeks remaining, spendable donations received so far in April total \$28,171.

Spendable donations in January thru March this year are \$16,800 less than during that same time period last year. Unfortunately, there was also matching downturn of attendance. We are averaging about 70 people less in our weekly services when compared to the last two years (43 less in January, 60 less in February, 105 less in March). With the reduced amount in donations, it will be even harder to set aside the monthly amounts we should be putting into certain accounts. The following schedule reflects those account balances as of the dates indicated:

	10/31/2016	11/30/2016	12/31/2016	1/31/2017	2/28/2017	3/31/2017
A/C Fund 320.007	8,826	9,026	9,226	9,426	9,626	9,826
Church Property Taxes 320.024	1,850	2,000	0	360	820	1,280
Facility Expansion 320.026	280	585	865	1,170	12,511	12,751
Facility Up Keep 320.028 (prior mort. pmt.)	0	15,917	15,917	15,917	16,117	16,117
Pastoral Changes 320.031	0	0	0	30	60	90
Parsonage/Oaks Cove Taxes 320.040	2,267	0	0	100	200	300
Reserve Fund 100.102	17,171	16,532	17,164	23,600	25,024	28,326

We had to make an unexpected repair to the air conditioners, and the \$1,337 bill was recently paid out of the above-referenced A/C Fund. There are many other items into which we *should* be putting funds for future use, but if we do that, we don't have money to pay the routine bills. And paying those bills is what keeps us open and able to help others.

Regarding the Reserve Fund, \$1,164 has been received so far in April, bringing the total up to \$29,490. With less spendable income being received, the concern is that the Reserve Fund will have to be drawn upon much sooner than before. Last year, a total of \$26,879 was pulled from the Reserve Fund, beginning in June.

We have never had a capital campaign, and we don't mandate that everybody tithe (or even pledge). But ... whenever a special need arises, our congregation is generous and always willing to fund it.

Dawn explained that the church uses "fund accounting." The accounts assigned with a 300-number are actual funds in the bank. The 400-numbered accounts represent incoming accounts, and 500-numbered are expense accounts; both of these are "budget" accounts (what we think will be needed, and don't necessarily have funds available). The 100-numbered accounts are asset accounts, and 200-numbered are liability accounts.

OLD BUSINESS

Praise Team: Liza McDaniel submitted more information on the equipment that needs to be replaced for worship services. John McGuire asked if Dawn could provide an explanation of the four accounts questioned on page 3 of the March 20 minutes. Dawn said that the first-listed account (510.155 Contemporary Worship) is under Liza's control; the budget amount is only \$400 because when asked to supply figures for the 2017 budget, Liza was new to the position and did not know what might be needed. The other three accounts (511.100 Music Material Expense, 511.110 Special Program & Musician Expense, and 511.120 Equipment & Maintenance Expense) are under Roy Engler's control for the traditional music services.

Habitat: The Apostles Build 2017 house is completed and the dedication was the morning of April 17. Our pledge for the house is \$4,200, and it is due the end of this month. The Habitat account contained \$2,891 at the end of March. If necessary, the balance will be taken out of the Outreach account.

Selling Property on Matecumbe Road: The property at 8350 Matecumbe Road is a 12,000+ square foot lot. The property was gifted to GCUMC by Raymond and Elizabeth Fuson on 4/28/1993 and is carried on Charlotte County records in the name of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church. Although no decision was made about where proceeds from the eventual sale should be used, the suggestion was made that the funds be used for Wish List items.

NEW BUSINESS

Immediate Needs: After discussion, it was agreed that we should go ahead and replace some of the smaller Wish List items. Those present agreed the most needed items would be new cordless microphones. The following comments were made during the discussion:

- If feasible, we should consider sending our used items to the Nicaro church or Frank Pais church in Cuba.
- John guessed that the total needed to purchase just the “Sanctuary” portion of the Wish List would be in the area of \$10,000.
- The congregation should be informed of our immediate needs and Wish List items – article in the newsletter, insert in the bulletin, presentation on Sunday mornings.
- The Wish List is currently posted on Slack under the *General* tab. Possibly it could be added and updated somewhere on the church website.
- People might be willing to put some of their income tax refund toward the Wish List.
- The congregation could be encouraged to make end-of-year gifts specifically for items on the Wish List.
- Individuals should be aware that their required minimum distribution (withdrawals which must be made out of IRAs starting at age 70½) may be donated to GCUMC and individuals would receive a tax deduction in that amount.
- Unless an item is a must-have-or-else, our doors will not close.

Liza’s information is included in this year’s WISH LIST which is reproduced at the end of these minutes.

SUMMARY

Finance Committee Lights & Resolutions for Church Council:

Red:	➤ Upcoming summer finances.
Yellow:	➤ Wish List.
Green:	➤ Still paying bills without pulling from the Reserve Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm with a prayer by John. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 15, 2017, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson

WISH LIST 2017

Last update: 4/17/2017 9:02 PM

[“I” and “my” refer to Liza McDaniel.]

AUDIO VIDEO BOOTH

- Wireless keyboard
- Wireless mouse
- Final Cut Pro X approx...\$300
- Ear Buds for hearing devices (\$17 each)
- 20’ video cable (~\$40)

SANCTUARY

New cordless microphones

The microphone packs work. However, the wired portion that hooks on the ear needs to be replaced. My microphone is the only surviving set. Mike's originally broke when Vic preached several months ago. (Mike purchased one for cheap on the internet to help patch us over.) Doreen's microphone crackled out during service on this past Sunday. Again, this is something that we have had for years. We simply need to consistently prepare to repair/replace through the years.

Drum set (electronic), Estimate \$2,500 - \$3,500

Why? The set that the church currently owns was an electronic retro-fit to an acoustic set. It was set up when Smitty was our drummer, and even he had frustration with the cymbals. Since then, every drummer we have had has voiced his frustration with that set. Regardless of how hard the drummer hits the cymbals, the sound is always the same. Thus, it is very challenging to play with musicality and emotion. Also, it poses an immense challenge to anyone in the sound booth. Sean or Zac are constantly being required to adjust the volume on the cymbals and the other drums individually multiple times each song. Doing so changes the entire blend of music.

The proposed, and currently borrowed, set is a Roland TDK25V with a monitor. It costs about \$3500. It is touch responsive, allowing the drummer to play musically and requiring minimal adjustments from the booth or otherwise during a typical service. The sound quality was noticeably improved. The band was able to settle in and worship.

Speakers

The current speakers have served the church well. However, they do not have the power to push our church when occupied with as many bodies as we have grown to contain. They are also about 15 years old. Let's face it: speakers are cardboard cones banging around. Cardboard does not fare well in Florida humidity. Again, these have served well.

The knob on the mixer amp (the third box up from the floor in the equipment rack) is broken. It never needs adjustment, but it did get sheared off when Mardy tripped and kicked it a couple weeks back.

The other thing that I think should be mentioned is that with the PA system, it wouldn't just be new speakers. Stuff like that should really be a matched/ tuned set of speakers AND amplifiers. The amps we're currently running are every bit of 18+ years old, and the best speakers on the market would probably be lacking if we kept using the same amps.

Bluetooth foot pedal

I suggest that we get 3 of these. Bluetooth allows a foot pedal to turn the pages of music on the iPad. There are often page turns directly in the music. It is very challenging for me to turn the pages and nearly impossible for the guitar or bass players.

iPads

I had actually mentioned this way back in the summer when we started to discuss budget planning. The iPads that we are using are getting old and tired. I say this, not because we want new and shiny, but that they are literally wearing out. Several of the "home" buttons are non-

responsive without excessive pressure. The touchscreens are sluggish. The batteries, when fully charged at the beginning of a service, are down to about 25% by the end of the service. This is an ongoing issue.

The ones that were purchased are refurbished models. Perhaps that is why they are seeming to meet an end so quickly. However, we need to seek replacement. This could be something that could be done gradually if need be. Also, we do not need the biggest and the best. We simply need something new enough that will support the software updates without turning into a brick. They do not need extensive memory, as we load very few apps.

Keyboard

This is not an immediate need, but something we should plan for. The church owned keyboard has been known to be out of tune for about 3 years. There are two octaves within the main playing range that are constantly pitchy. There is an octave of keys that clicks whenever played. The church keyboard has been boxed in my keyboard case for about 4 months. Since then, I have been playing my own keyboard. I am perfectly fine with leaving it at the church, as I do not play out often and have a piano at home to practice. However, eventually, this is something that the church should likely have.

In receiving feedback from multiple congregation members, it has become clear that the quality of sound heard greatly depends on one's placement in the sanctuary. The sub blasts the people on the front right. The vocalists drown the front half of the left side. Guitar gets lost in the outer seats on rows. The lack of sound balance is one of the true complaints that I have heard from people since taking this job.

MISCELLANEOUS

- White boards for each classroom, Nursery, Office
- Coat Hooks/Shelf Above for Nursery
- Chalkboard Paint for Nursery
- Smaller Tables/Chairs for Porch
- Shutters for Sanctuary windows
- Locking cabinet in Nursery
- Changing table in Nursery
- Walking path around pond with benches and exercise stations
- Directional signs around church
- Irrigation/Landscaping for Parsonage
- Softball/sports field
- Intercoms to Portables & Oaks Cove ... Barn???
- Scout Display Case for Narthex