

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Experience – Embrace – Engage
Church Conference
Sunday, September 15, 2019 – 12:00pm

Presiding Elder: Pastor Becky Stephenson

Attendees:

Pastor Mike Weaver, Chuck Russell (Council Chair), Doreen Alvarez, Loretta Barche, Virginia Bathurst, Susan Betz, Fred Boyer, Judy Boyer, Al Crosby, Vernetta Crosby, Alfred Current, Karen Current, Anne Devilbiss, Dave Devilbiss, Elaine Dorotics, John Dorotics, Sandy Doty, John Furtado, Charles Hilton, Mary Hilton, Deb Howell, Jim Marshall, Joan Priest, Carole Satterfield, Jeanne Shrout, Linda Starck, Rick Starck, Jack Stephenson, Sarah Taylor, Holly Tozer, Donna Wallace, Kelly Weaver, John Zink, LuAnn Zink, Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Becky.

Pastor Mike explained that the sole purpose of this special meeting is to discuss and vote on a proposed restructuring of the church's administrative-leadership format. He then read the Leadership Council Guidelines, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. With regard to the third page which is a "flowchart," he explained that SPR and Nominations are separate from the Leadership Board because it gives the Board some balance, but they are still represented on the Board. The overlapping circles show how SPR and the Board intertwine with each other.

In general, the result would be a lesser need to attend monthly meetings (which would drop from 3 a month to 1 a month), and the individual's time would be freed up, giving him or her more time to serve -- to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The immediate effect on the Nominations Committee would be having to search for a lesser number of people to serve on an administrative committee (i.e., the Board of Trustees, Finance, Church Council, and SPR). The Chairmen would be responsible for selecting Team or Task Force members to perform various functions required by each specific Committee; but those Team members would not be obligated to serve on the Team for a definite length of time, nor would they be required to attend any meetings. The number of individuals the Nominations Committee would have to find is outlined in the attachment under *Membership*. Pastor Mike then answered questions.

QUESTION: Aren't decisions being placed in the hands of just a few instead of the whole church? **ANSWER:** No, because everything is already ultimately approved by the Church Council. For the most part, the same people attend the three different meetings which are currently held each month. With the various Teams or Task Force members, everybody would be able to give their input and insight to any particular situation or issue, and their expertise would be taken into consideration.

QUESTION: Regarding the “quorum,” does it mean that if only 3 out of 15 people attend a meeting, do they constitute the required “quorum” for deciding a matter?

ANSWER: The answer expressed itself today. Although the entire congregation was notified of today’s meeting several times over the last two to three weeks, only 35 people came to this Church Conference. It was pointed out that this is about the usual number of people to attend these types of meetings, and again, 15 of today’s attendees are already on the current Church Council. One person opined that if many people came, it might indicate a lack of confidence in the leadership, but since so few attended, it would tend to indicate a trust in the currently chosen leaders. Pastor Mike reminded the group that there were still Team or Task Force members who would have input into their specific responsibilities. In addition, the gravity of an issue or problem would dictate whether an answer could come from a quorum of just a few people, or if it needed to be addressed by more than that.

QUESTION: What is the process of having a duly-called meeting? **ANSWER:**

Currently, an issue is addressed at one committee meeting, and then it is presented to another committee which might not meet for several weeks. Eventually, after being addressed in those two committees, the issue is presented to the Church Council which, again, may not meet for another few weeks. With this proposed change in structure, attendees to the Leadership Council Meeting would “wear different hats,” depending on the issue being discussed, and an issue could be presented and solved in just the one meeting. Major events, such as taking on a new mortgage or hiring a new associate pastor, would still be the subject of a church meeting, such as the one today. From a concern-aspect, nothing really changes, but from a responsibility-aspect, it shortens up the response time that Trustees, Finance, and Council require to get work done.

QUESTION: Would the Leadership Council Meetings still be open to anyone who wanted to come. **ANSWER:** Yes, just as they currently are open to anyone. But as is the current practice, any interested party who wants to address the Council, needs to make prior arrangements and be approved by either the Church Council Chairman or the Lead Pastor.

QUESTION: How are the legal requirements met with this new structure? **ANSWER:**

The specific requirements of the Book of Discipline are being met with this structure. Also, the authority that an individual has now as chairman of a particular committee continues with that same position in the new Leadership Council structure. For instance, anything that requires a Trustee’s signature would still be signed by Rick Starck as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

DECISION

In summary, Pastor Mike pointed out that if it was felt after a couple years that this structure is not right for Gulf Cove UMC, then we can always vote to revert back to the current structure. If it is voted into being, the new structure would start in January 2020.

Doreen Alvarez moved to institute the procedures outlined in the new Leadership Council Guidelines; John Furtado seconded her motion. The vote was unanimous to adopt the proposal as presented today.

The Presiding Elder certified that the vote was unanimous, true, and fair. Pastor Becky reiterated that attending meetings is not our ministry. We are be the hands and feet of Jesus and should not lose this opportunity to do so more often.

ADJOURNING

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm with a prayer by Pastor Becky.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary

The new structure is accepted on behalf of Gulf Cove United Methodist Church.

Becky Stephenson
Presiding Elder

Michael Weaver, II
Lead Pastor

Chuck Russell
Church Council Chairman

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed leadership Council is to integrate the responsibility, authority, and accountability of the Church Council, Committee on Finance, and the Board of Trustees into a single leaner body to better serve the church.

MEMBERSHIP

The charge conference will determine the size and composition of the Leadership Council. The Nomination and Leadership Development Committee will interview and nominate candidates to be presented to the Charge Conference for election on an annual basis. Members will be elected for a three-year term except during the startup year when one-, two- or three-year classes will be used, or the membership included because of a named office (i.e., Lay Delegate, Lay Leader, SPR Chair, Treasurer, Finance Secretary, Recording Secretary).

In the event a member is unable or unwilling to complete the term of office, the Leadership Council may fill the vacancy with a qualified replacement for the remainder of the current year.

The voting members of the Leadership Council will consist of:

- Church Council (Chair)
- 3 Trustees (Chair, Vice-Chair, Member)
- 3 Finance (Chair, Vice-Chair, Member)
- 3 Council on Ministries
 - 1 Experience / Worship
 - 1 Embrace / Discipleship
 - 1 Engage / Evangelism & Outreach
- Lay Leader
- SPR (Chair)
- Lay Delegate to Annual Conference
- Optional: 2 Ad hoc members
- Pastor (as an ex-officio member, he/she has voice and vote)

Other Non-voting attendees:

- Treasurer
- Finance Secretary
- Recording Secretary

MEETINGS

The Leadership Council meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the servicing room (#103) unless otherwise announced. As the Church Council, Committee on Finance, and Board of Trustees are now incorporated into the Leadership Council, there is no need for separate meetings; therefore, those meetings are discontinued.

The meetings are open to all interested parties. However, any interested party wishing to speak at the meeting must make prior arrangements with and be approved by the Church Council Chair or the Lead Pastor.

The Recording Secretary will record and distribute minutes of each meetings.

QUORUM

The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

TEAMS

The Leadership Council intends to make use of a team concept whereby teams of various sizes and purposes and durations will be created to accomplish the work of the church. Team members are welcome to attend Leadership Council meetings but are not obligated to do so. Anyone wishing to volunteer for specific teams can now do so without commitment to length of service or meeting requirements!

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Pastor (Chair)

Lay Leader

1 from each class:

2020

2021

2022

The Discipline requires that there be a Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (§258.1). The committee is to be composed of not more than 9 persons elected to 3-year terms in 3 classes, plus the lay leader and pastor. The pastor shall be the chair of this committee. This committee will work with the pastor throughout the year to identify, call and equip leadership for the mission of the congregation.

They shall annually recommend to the Charge Conference a slate of qualified and called persons for election to all elected offices in the congregation.

When elected offices become vacant for any reason in between charge conferences the committee will make nominations to the Church Council for ad-interim election to fill these vacancies. They shall support connecting church members and volunteers with the various mission and ministry teams of the church, and leadership development.

