

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
January 16, 2018

Members Present: Bill Coppa, David Forrest, Brian Johnson, Pat Dodson, Renee Kinnear, Don Rickerson, Caleb Mathews, Pat Brown, George Anderson, Natalie Martin, Hank Heuser, Leslie Oakes, Marian Ludlow, Lori Perez and Janie Russell. Visitors present: Dick Crompton, Bruce Urani.

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 pm by Bill Coppa. Brian Johnson gave the opening prayer.

Devotion: Bill Coppa – “Holy Conferencing: Scripture reading was Col. 3:12-17: *As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the work of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* Bill provided everyone with a written description of Holy Conference, which he asked us to read at our leisure.

Motions: None

Visitors/Congregation Time:

- Bill welcomed visitors and new members.
- Each person at the meeting introduced themselves.

Minutes: The December minutes were approved by e-mail.

Celebrations:

- Lori Perez announced that Marcus is engaged. She’ll be an instant grandmother, as his fiancée has two children.
- The Advent Christmas season was wonderful.

Pastor Time:

David Forrest:

- David told Council members that he will be retiring at the end of June. He talked briefly about his time here at St. Thomas.
- The Bi-District Training day went well. Next year’s session will be January 12th at Floris UMC. It was suggested that we find a way to share what’s learned.
- On Feb. 21st there will be a discussion of Anatomy of Peace, the book being used for the Way Forward.
- Bishop Lewis will have another “Chat and Chew” on Saturday, Feb. 24th at Ebenezer UMC. Time is 8:30 to 2:00. You have to pre-register.

- February 14th is Ash Wednesday.
- Lenten Devotional theme is “How You Answered God’s Call in Your Life. They would like the devotionals by February 5th.
- Next Monday SPRC will be meeting with the District Superintendent to discuss our next pastor.
- Annual Conference is June 16-18 in Hampton. Pat Brown, Pat Dodson and Terry Dearth represent St. Thomas.

Brian Johnson:

- Brian will have a presentation at the next Church Council sharing some of what we learned at Bi-District Training Day.
- Attendance continues to be about 20% higher than last year. Christmas Eve attendance was good,.
- Space Sharing is picking up. The “Meeting Place” closed and referred everyone to HM.
- Dinner Church is going well.
- Abby Madden has resigned. We are looking for a replacement.
- Ash Wednesday we will probably have lunch and evening meetings, as well as “Ashes to Go” at Panera.
- We will have a petting zoo on Easter Morning.
- Stewardship Drive will start in February.
- Pub Theology: We are partnering with Gainesville UMC. Next one is Feb. 8th at 7 pm at Giuseppe’s. Subject: What is Truth?

Leslie Oakes:

- Henry Henes is in the hospital. He may be discharged tomorrow and will go to Bill Shaw’s house.
- Ken Hinkle went home from the hospital.
- Barbara Coleman, who’s in Lake Manassas Rehab, is doing a little better. Bob Jones had surgery; Bill Clouse has surgery on Tuesday.
- Pete Mizelle’s funeral will be January 27th.
- Nancy Forrest’s father’s funeral is January 30th.
- We had 47 adults in Sunday School last week. We’re already discussing adult summer Sunday School.

Status Reports:

Lay Leaders:

- Current Lay Leaders will meet for the first time on Sunday.

Missions: Lori Perez

- Missions will meet next week. We’ve moved our meetings from the first Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday.
- Christmas Mission Offering was around \$13,000

Finance: George Anderson

- Last Tuesday Ted Soto from Investing and Stewardship Development for the Methodist Church talked to us. We can invest with them but it's not FDIC insured.
- Next month Ron Mentzer will be at the Finance meeting.
- In March Finance will have a working session on establishing a realistic budget.
- Lori is consolidating several accounts. She has also reconciled the amount we owed for pension.
- Current mortgage on the Professional Building is \$378,615. The loan rate went up to 4.5%.
- December Finance report for 2017: Year end offering was \$1,029,501.03. Year end income from all sources was \$1,191,767.53. Total expenses for 2017 were \$1,197,051.17, with an ending deficit of \$5,283.64.
- Designated income was \$276,961.07 and expenses were \$288,694.98. Some of the funds that have been disbursed were given in past years; there are still unspent designated funds.
- Ballston UMC is building a new church with underground parking below, the church on the main level and then a number of floors above which will be built for low income housing. The United Methodist fund helped with the loans for this.
- The United Methodist Foundation will work with our Stewardship Committee to help educate congregations about church finances and show people how to help the church.

Education:

- Covered in Leslie's earlier report.

Children and Youth: Caleb Mathews

- The Children's Service on Christmas eve went well.
- There are four youth in the Confirmation Class. Three trips are scheduled. March 18th is Confirmation Sunday.
- The Bowling Lock-In is this week-end, Friday night to Saturday morning at 7 am.
- Easter Egg Hunt will be the day before Easter.

Trustees: Don Rickerson

- Things are progressing well with the Columbarium. It's due here on April 15th.

Stewardship: No report**Communications:**

- The directory will be sent in this week.

Outreach and Evangelism: Renee Kinnear

- Free Movie night is this Saturday. Dinner is before from 5:30 to 6:30 and the movie is at 7 in the Fellowship Hall.
- We are working on a realistic budget.
- We are looking at demographic data from the Fall training session.

Sunbeam Children Center: Natalie Martin

- We are working with SPRC to hire a new director.
- Sunbeam Sunday will be January 28th. The children will sing three songs at the 9:40 service and then will go down to Sunday School.
- Preschool registration for current students starts on February 5th, for church members on Feb. 8th and 9th and then registration is open to the public on Feb. 12th.
- We are looking for a part time music person.
- Current enrollment is 129.

Worship: no report

SPRC: Janie Russell

- SPRC is working on hiring a preschool director.
- We will meet with the District Superintendent on January 22nd.
- The Staff Handbook revisions are finished and copies of the handbook will be given to the staff soon.

UMW: Pat Dodson

- UMW met last week and distributed about \$17,000 to various missions.
- The next meeting is a brunch on February 3rd.
- Sight and Sound for 2018 will be “Jesus, His Life and Ministry”. We will probably go the last Saturday in October.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- David will not be here for the next Council Meeting, as he will be attending a retirement meeting.
- Pat Brown volunteered to pull together a report from the Bi-District meeting.
- Bill hopes that tangible things will begin to happen this year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35. David gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting will be February 20, 2018 at 7:15 at Manassas.