

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 22, 1919

Members Present: Pat Dodson, Pastor Abi Foerster, Pastor Brian Johnson, Joe Steen, Pat Brown, Will Ameen (Trustees), Deb Crawford, Renee Kinnear, Leonard Fick, Lori Perez, Leslie Oakes, Caleb Mathews, Bill Coppa, Roxanne Sutton, Marian Ludlow, Bill Bixby, Sarah Hammack, and Janie Russell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by Chairman Pat Dodson. After welcoming the incoming members, Pat asked members to send any items for discussion to her. She also asked to be sent any motions. Written reports are also helpful. If nothing needs to be reported, that is also fine.

Devotion: Abi Foerster. Matthew 22:37-40. *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* From the book The Art of Neighboring: A pastor was frustrated when only 80 people came to a concert when he had expected 1000. When he went to get something to eat, everyone was there. Idea: instead of inviting people to come, go where the people are. It has been said that if we were better neighbors, 95% of today’s problems would go away. Abi is challenging the church to get serious about this second part of the commandment. Sermons on Feb. 10 through March 3rd will be on this subject. Abi challenged us to reach out to our neighbors

Abi also gave the opening prayer.

Motions:

- **Motion: Move to approve the Nominations report.** ((Nominations Committee)
Motion passed.

Visitors/Congregation Time: none

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

Celebrations:

- Mitchell Sutton, Roxanne’s son was baptized.

Pastor Time:

Brian Johnson:

- Brian passed around a list of the incoming Haymarket Leadership Team. Several positions are not yet named.

Abi Foerster:

- Abi handed out an updated list of leadership positions that were not yet filled at the time of the Charge Conference.

- **Motion: Move to approve the Nominations report.** ((Nominations Committee)
Motion passed.
- Our current church building was consecrated March 6th, 1994 – 25 years ago. Rev. Hogg is still preaching but he's not able to come for the celebration. We will try to videotape a message from him.
 - What do we want for food? Following discussion, we will have a luncheon from perhaps 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, sort of an open house. We will probably ask for a love offering to defray costs.
 - Leslie has the liturgy from March 6, 1994.

Status Reports:

Finance: Leonard Fick

- December Finance report for 2018: Total Year end offering was \$1,032,326.45. Year end income from all sources was \$1,155,401.45. Total expenses for 2018 were \$1,174,321.74, with an ending deficit of \$18,920.31
- Goal for next year is to keep better track of spending.
- We currently have about 55 designated accounts. A committee that looked at financial policy made recommendations to Finance to reduce the number of designated accounts. The Finance Committee endorsed a list of 15 categories: Building and grounds, Children, Youth, Adult, Worship, Music, Missions, Local Relief, Food Pantry, Evangelism and Outreach, Hospitality/Kitchen, Congregational Care, Haymarket, Permanent Endowment, and Memorials.
 - This will have a 6 month roll out period.
 - Committees are being asked to track expenses.
 - Question: How will we record fund raisers? Lori said she can track these within the mission statement.
 - It was decided we would not vote on this tonight. We might want to do some education with the congregation and then come back.
 - Haymarket asked to have 3 funds under the Haymarket category: HM Facility Fund, Mission/outreach, Internal Programs.
 - We will table until the February or March meetings. By February we should have something for education regarding designated funds. Lori will do a “mock up” for how she will track funds for all the different groups/categories.

Trustees: Will Ameen

- The Egyptian Orthodox Coptic Church rented space from our church for services at Christmas. They usually meet at St. Paul's in Haymarket and at Linton Hall School. They wanted something more centrally located. On Christmas Eve (which does not correspond to our date for Christmas Eve) they had 300+ in attendance. They would like 50 hours of space during Easter week, which is the week after our Easter Week. They were very hospitable and very respectful of our church.
- Cleaning contract: Jose has been doing this for 25 years. He would like to decrease his hours. He has a woman coming in to help him. Week end services are provided by a second person.

- Memorial bricks are on sale for \$125 each. We need to have at least ten to put in an order. Will sent around a picture of the current bricks that will be ordered.
- The Hispanic Church has resigned their lease. If they don't want to use it, the Coptic Church might want to rent it.

Lay Leaders: Deb Crawford

- We talked to Pat Brown about presenting information on “The Way Forward”, how to present.
- Lenten Devotionals: We are asking people to write a devotional.
- Call To Service Program: February 24th.
- Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the dedication of our church building is March sixth. We will celebrate on March 3rd.
- September 8th we will have BFF Sunday - Bring a Friend and Family Day.
- We're talking about a church picnic, perhaps on June 8th.

Outreach: Renee Kinnear

- We met last week. We have several new committee members.
- We discussed the calendar for the year.
- Movie night is February 23rd. The movie is “Won't You Be My Neighbor?” about Mr. Rogers.
- This year we will be looking at first time visitor experience.

Missions: Lori Perez

- We approved \$1000 for the Drive Through Nativity.
- We also gave \$1000 to the granddaughter of Frank and Joyce Hale. She's a missionary in Guatemala. We also recommended Frank and Joyce talk to UMW.

Education: Leslie Oakes

- There are currently 31 small groups.
- We are starting to plan for summer.

Youth Ministry: Caleb Mathews

- Bi-district Bowling Lock In is this week-end. We have eleven people signed up to attend.
- We will be using the Adam Hamilton book, Seeing Gray, for 8-12 grade.
- Confirmation Class: Eight youth are interested. The retreat will be the first week in February.

Stewardship: Bill Coppa

- We met in January.
- We will focus on empowering individuals to spread the message.
- Bill passed out information to the Council to read: “Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship”.
- The committee is asking each of you to look into being part of stewardship.

Communications: Roxanne Sutton

- We are looking at options for streaming.
- We are also looking at software.
- 25th Anniversary: How can we support with social media, etc.
- Let us know if we can help with “The Way Forward.”
- We are looking at demographic data from the Fall training session.

Sunbeam Children Center: Natalie Martin sent a written report.

- Current enrollment is 128: 89 children in day care and 39 in preschool.
- Preschool Registration has begun for 2019-2020. So far only two children have registered.
- SCC Sunday is February 10th during the 9:40 and 11:00 worship services.
- SCC Board will provide lunch and dessert for the SCC staff Feb. 6th during their meeting.
- On January 10th the center held a Professional Development training for staff about setting clear expectations and improving communication among teachers and parents.
- The newsletter is on the website now for families to reference. Pictures of annual events are forthcoming with interested families to view online.

Worship: Marian Ludlow

- Next Worship Committee Meeting February 17 at 12:30 pm. Please put on your calendars.
- We met on January 17.
- March 3 is 25th anniversary celebration for St Thomas in this building.
- Ash Wednesday – March 6
 - celebrate on Tuesday with pancake supper at 5:30 and worship service at 6:30 pm.
 - Wednesday - noon service only.
- Holy Week
 - Saturday, April 13: 7:00 Requiem with Grace UMC. Dinner at 5:30.
 - Palm Sunday, April 14, Cantata with a few musical pieces from Saturday’s Requiem at 8:15 and 11:00 services.
 - April 16, Tuesday – worship service will include Holy Week content.
 - April 18 – No Maundy Thursday service.
 - April 19 – Good Friday – service in evening at 7:00 pm
- Easter: April 21st.
 - Sunrise service at 6:30 to 7:15 am.
 - Breakfast at 7:15.
 - 8:15, 9:40 and 11:00 regular worship services.
- Pastor Abi will be on vacation April 22-28.

(Coptic church will again use our building the week after Easter for their Holy Week worship and services starting Easter Sunday evening)

SPRC: Bill Bixby

- We met last week. All annual forms are completed and are turned in to the District.
- We finalized the Food Pantry job description and will be posting it.
- We are working on the Youth job description.

- We are starting on staff evaluations, hoping to finish in six months.
- Two members attended the SPRC session at the Bi-district meeting.
- Bill appreciated all the mentoring Gordon Haines has provided.

UMW: Sarah Hammack

- We are meeting tomorrow night and will work on our calendar for the year.
- Saturday will be our first general meeting.

Old Business:

- Question: Have we provided enough information about “The Way Forward”?
 - Should we present at one of the Tuesday night services?
 - We previously offered some classes but only 30-40 attended.
 - We also did a presentation of Holy Conferencing.

New Business: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:01. Brian gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting will be February 26, 2019 at 7:15 at Manassas.