

# Charlottesville First United Methodist Church

## Church Council Meeting

January 15, 2024

**Members in Attendance:** Lisa Hanrahan, Alex Joyner, Bill Clarke, Guy Moffat, Dana Palmer, Paige Lindblom, Kevin Palmer, Barba Hickman, Karen Lapps, Claire Kent, Charles Kidd, Jim Berlin, Fred Schneider, Hu Shaffer, Lisa Mann, Gary Bibb, Jon Schueman, and Priscilla Sprague

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Council Chairperson, Lisa Hanrahan.

Bill Clarke delivered the devotion and the opening prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 18 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was a review of the discussion of the solar panel installation that was approved by the congregation at the town hall meeting held on January 14. Lisa Mann requested a review of the meeting as she was not able to attend on Sunday. That discussion primarily involved the higher than anticipated costs and return on investments (ROI). Alex reminded everyone that the entire meeting is recorded for members to view on You Tube. Fred was concerned about the degradation factor of the panels – that the amount of electricity generated will significantly decrease over time. He is worried that we will have a time of optimal energy production followed by significant decline beginning a few years after install. Fred also asked if there are energy credits available once this project is completed. Guy Moffat and the trustees will be digging deeper into the specifics of the project if they are given the “go ahead” to pursue this project further. Kevin Palmer, who does have some experience with this type of project, will be assisting on the next phase. He states there are some credits available for a project like ours that will produce 60 kW and, this amount of production will lessen the payback time significantly. Several members questioned the availability of grants for energy projects. This would help defray the initial cost of the project.

Barba encouraged the Trustees to review what they have done so far and get a “cleaner” proposal regarding costs, payback, etc. Guy assured the Council they will do that and keep the entire congregation updated as to costs and the origin of funds to be used. The current plan is to use the \$100,000 donation along with grants and credits. At this point, Barba moved and Fred seconded that the committee move forward with additional investigation to incorporate any credit and grant opportunities. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Jeff Taylor reviewed the year end financial report. Detailed reports are attached. He has been working with Dana to get the financial information migrated over to the Realm Accounting System. This will be completed in the next few weeks and all church members will be able to review their financial giving online once this migration is complete. There will be seven years of data migrated to the new system. There is a church wide roll-out for Realm planned in the next few weeks. Dana and others are working with groups of congregants now to get people enrolled and begin using the app.

**Pastor Alex:**

The Church Building Centennial Group is still being put together. There is much work to do regarding what to save, where to store and possibly display what is saved, and what sort of celebration should be planned.

Alex is also pulling together a “Visioning Group” with informal sessions regarding how people see the “health” of the church and suggestions for enhancement. Charles Kidd will host a “building utilization” conversation on January 21. We have a very large building to worship in, work in, serve in, celebrate in and teach/learn in. How can we best utilize all the space we have to our best advantage?

Alex would also like to hold more frequent town hall meetings to keep up with how members are feeling and thinking about the church.

Bishop Sue will be in Charlottesville on February 25 at Aldersgate Methodist Church. They are planning a “District Dessert” as part of hosting her. CFUMC members are invited to attend.

**Updated Committee Chairs:** Charles Kidd is chair of Trustees and Barba Hickman is vice-chair. Keving Palmer is the new chair of the Endowment Committee,

Dana Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55; it was seconded by Priscilla Sprague.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Sprague, Recording Secretary