

Charlottesville First United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting

March 22, 2023

Following a delicious communal meal, our March meeting was opened with a devotion by Bill Clarke. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Council President, Lisa Hanrahan. The first order of business was the self-introduction of all members present, as this is our first meeting as a newly merged church council.

Members present: Lisa Hanrahan, Lisa Mann, Dubie Dubendorfer, Alex Joyner, Jeff Taylor, Dave Wheatley, Priscilla Sprague, Ed Denham, Cindy Poots Remington, Gary Bibb, Dana Palmer, Paige Lindblom, Guy Moffatt, Fred Schneider, Bill Clarke, Jim Berlin, Charles Kidd, Robert Braden, Mary Miller, and Karen Lapps.

Approval of First UMC February Council Meeting minutes: Cindy Remington moved to approve; Paige Lindblom seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Recent Events Summary: Fred Schneider revealed that the Charlottesville BAR rejection of the solar panel proposal for CFUMC was unanimously reversed by the Charlottesville City Council on Monday evening (3/20/23). Everyone who spoke at the meeting was in favor of the proposal. Cindy Remington revealed the total amount raised from the recent cake auction is \$2400.00. In addition, \$1000.00 has been collected from the coin drive. We have already exceeded our goal of \$3000.00 for Rise Against Hunger. Additional funds raised will be used to support next year's Rise goal.

Finance Report: Jeff Taylor reviewed current financial status, stating that we are \$7000.00 behind our budgeted amount but we are even with current expenses. In the next few weeks, Hinton Avenue Methodist Church funds will be merged into the new merged account.

Hinton House, a property previously owned by Hinton House LLC, comprised (originally) of 17 families or individuals attending HAUMC was sold and closed in February 2023, netting about \$381,000. Of this amount, \$300,000 has already been received by HAUMC and is held in the General Fund, the remainder being held by the LLC's lawyer for any unanticipated expenses, to pay the final utility bills, to reimburse the costs of the notary and shipping closing documents, pay for this year's and next year's tax returns, etc. Any remaining balance will be returned to the church. The plan has always been to return the money to the church and thus the proceeds will be merged into the current financial structure of Charlottesville First United Methodist Church. The original purchase price of the property was \$75,000.00, so a significant profit has been realized.

Current Charlottesville FUMC Lay Leadership: Lisa Hanrahan and Pastor Alex reviewed the current roster of members on the various councils (Council, Trustees, Ministry, Staff/Pastor-

Parish Relations, Finance, Nominations & Leadership, Endowment, and “other” Representatives) within the merged church. There are two groups that do not have HA representatives – SPRC, Nominations, Endowment, and Trustees. We will seek nominations for these positions soon. Dubie Dubendorfer moved, and Ed Denham seconded that we accept the Council Structure as presented. The motion carried.

Formation of a Hinton Avenue Property Team and a Vision Team: Pastor Alex presented the idea for teams to begin working together to develop a plan for disposition of the Hinton Avenue property.

The Property Team will assess the structure of the building and inventory the contents. Bill Owens (architect) has agreed to serve as a “tangential” member of this team to provide some expertise regarding the physical structure of the building. Members volunteering to assist this process are Gary Bibb, Jeff Taylor, Ed Denham, Fred Miller, Guy Moffatt, and Charles Kidd.

The Vision Team is charged with thinking about “where we see ourselves in the next 5-10 years.” This includes thoughts on how we will use the current building where worship is conducted and how we will make decisions. How do we define who we are? Some thoughts presented include potential kitchen renovations or upgrades, leasing space to local groups who might need meeting space on a short or long-term basis. Volunteers for this team include Paige Lindblom, Cindy Poots Remington, Fred Schneider, Jim Berlin, Mary Miller, Dave Wheatley, and Lisa Hanrahan.

Church Council Retreat: To be held on May 20, 9:30 – 4:00; location to be determined. Ben Rigsby will be the facilitator. He is well known to Alex and is Alex’s ministry coach.

Comments/Questions: Alex presented some initial graphic images for a potential logo for our church. After some discussion, it was decided to table this project/decision until after the Vision Team has a chance to meet.

Coming Events: Magnify Choir, April 2, Palm Sunday; Rise Against Hunger, April 15, 8:30 –12:00; Plant sale in the parking lot, April 29.

Next Council Meeting: April 17, 7:00 PM, via Zoom.

Adjournment: Motion by Cindy Remington, second by Mary Miller; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Priscilla Sprague, Secretary