

**HILLSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
September 20, 2017**

The Hillsboro First United Methodist Church Council met on Wednesday November 30, 2017 at 7:15 with sixteen people in attendance. There in attendance were: Chair Bill Myers, Bobbie Myers, Emily Turner, Tom Foster, Susan Foster, Mandy Smith, Kelly Smith, Pastor Chris Haynes, Terry Gunn, Stuart Myers, John Dimitri, Alex Dunavant, Larry McKelvey, Susan McKelvey, Bill Guffey and Hope Guffey. Council Chair Bill Myers called the meeting to order at 7:15 and Pastor Chris Haynes opened the meeting with devotional reading from *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* by Kathleen Norris. Pastor Haynes stated that with Christmas season upon us a term we should think of is incarnation which literally means God becomes human or God in the flesh. The author portrays the Incarnation as a place where hope contends with fear. She contends that this is reality as ordinary as struggles with fears and as exalted as hope that allows us peace in our struggles. She also encourages us to think of the Incarnation in terms of language, as a tension between the Word of God and human words as evidenced by the language of the Annunciation to Mary, "Hail, thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee, the power of the Most High will overshadow you" and Mary's response of "Here am I" and "let it be." The author states that when a place or time seems touched by God, it is an overshadowing of our own priorities and plans. In times of struggles if we can take time to sense that we are in the shadow of God we can find light to improve our vision and be aware that holiness is near. Pastor Haynes closed his devotion with prayer for the work of the council.

Chair Bill Myers next summarized the minutes from the last council meeting held on September 20, 2017. Larry McKelvey moved that that the minutes be as summarized be accepted and approved. Stuart Myers seconded the motion and the motion was passed by a vote of the council.

Treasurer Bill Guffey presented the financial summary statement for the period September 20, 2017 - November 29, 2017. We began the report period with a general fund checking account balance of \$31,296.98. \$25,685.00 was received in undesignated offerings, 3,283.94 was received in designated offerings and \$10.34 was earned in interest. Additionally, \$50,000 was received from a bequest of the Vera Parks estate. Income from all sources for the period totaled \$78,979.28. Total period expenses both designated and undesignated and tax obligations totaled \$46,351.77 . \$7000 of the total expenses was paid as a down payment on the new sanctuary video system. The reported ending checkbook balance for the general fund was of \$63,924.49. It was mentioned that \$8,741.20 was spent from the Emergency and Capital Improvements fund for the replacement of one of the sanctuary hvac units. It was also reported that any unspent funds remaining in the Church and the Parsonage Maintenance budgets will be rolled back into the Emergency and Capital Improvements fund in January of 2018. Currently the unspent funds in these budget lines is approximately \$1,500.00 Kelly Smith moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. This motion was seconded by John Dimitri and was approved with a vote of the council.

Chairman Myers review a number of things that have taken place in the church since the last council meeting. These included:

- Our annual charge conference was held with Rev. Randy Brown presiding. Pastor Haynes thanked everyone who had attended and everyone who had helped in the preparation of charge conference documents.
- Trick or Trunk sponsored by our church as an outreach ministry was held on Halloween evening and was well attended by the community. Pictures were taken and sent to attending families.
- Soup Sunday was held with good attendance. \$947.00 in donations were collected and sent to the District Conference for use in the hunger ministry.
- Community Thanksgiving was held at the Prairie Plains Baptist Church. This year Smithville UMC and Stevens Chapel UMC also participated and \$360.00 in offerings for the Back Pack ministry was collected.
- Envelopes for our Christmas for Others ministry have been picked up by the congregation. Items for this ministry are due back by December 10th. Gifts and food baskets will be given to families on December 12th.

Other items discussed included:

- The children of the church continue to practice for their program to be held on December 10th at 6:00 pm. Following the program refreshments will be available and Santa will visit with the children.
- The Advent Chrismon tree is up and decorated. Sanctuary windows will be decorated by this coming Sunday, the first of the Advent season.
- A Christmas Eve service is planned to be held at 6:00 pm on Sunday, December 24th.
- Anyone wanted to provide a poinsettia for the sanctuary should leave it in the fellowship hall and sign the list by Friday December 15th.
- Caroling will take place on Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00pm. Carolers will return to the church at 6:30 for refreshments. We will solicit names of individuals to carol for in the December newsletter.
- Our slate of 2018 officers has been finalized and will be provided to the congregation in a insert to the bulletin in January.
- Warmth in Winter will be held on February 9th thru the 11th. Registration had already been paid but not the hotel expense. The UMYF will host a luncheon after church on January 14th to help with their expenses.
- Phil Jamieson will present a workshop following the UMYF luncheon on January 14th on the United Methodist Foundation.
- The PPRC has not met yet to discuss the status of our pianist. The pianist has been helping with the children's Christmas program.
- The sanctuary video system installation is complete and a training session has been held. Written operating instruction have been provided by the vendor but drawing of the system setup has not been received to date. Pastor Haynes stated that everyone should feel free to provide input on how best to use the system in our worship services. It was suggested that we should have a number of hymns prepared with synchronized recorded music and lyrics for use when no live accompaniment is available. The system vendor has also been asked to provide a quote for a security monitoring system for the sanctuary. Kelly Smith has also discussed a security monitoring system with

someone who will be providing a quote. Kelly also reported that meetings are planned locally to discuss measures for sanctuary safety during worship services,

- Wednesday programs will be held on December 6th and 13th only but will resume on January 3rd. Our Wednesday program inclement weather policy will be to cancel if school classes are canceled or dismissed early.
- Pastor Haynes stated that his preference for a Sunday worship inclement weather policy be for everyone to use their own discretion. Because of his proximity to the church Pastor Haynes will have the church open on all Sundays and plans to have worship service but again encourages all to use their discretion regarding their attendance and safety.
- Hope Guffey made a proposal to the council that the aging metal folding chairs used in the fellowship hall be replaced with new plastic and metal chairs made by the same company that made our current fellowship hall tables and sold by Sam's Club at a cost of \$19.98 each. Hope suggested that a fund be established for interested families to donate to for the purpose of purchasing the chairs. Tom Foster, chair of the Trustees indicated there should be no issue from the Trustees regarding accepting the chairs. Hope indicated that interested families have committed to the purchase of 20 chairs already subject to council approval. Following discussion Hope made a motion to the council that a fund to which interested members of the congregation can donate be established to use for the purchase of 100 chairs. This motion was seconded by Larry McKelvey and passed with a vote of the council.
- Tom Foster reported that the handrail has not been repaired yet. Mandy Smith asked that a lock be placed on the door to the UMYF room.
- Stuart Myers presented the budget for 2018 which increased by \$400 over the 2017 budget. Terry Gunn moved that the budget as presented be approved with the understanding that the final document may change based on the 2018 apportionments which have yet to be announced. The 2018 budget was approved by the council.
- Alex Dunavant reported that the youth will be attending the Reindeer Walk and Color Walk at Wagner Park in Manchester.
- Mandy Smith reported that the youth are looking into making some changes to the next Tenebrae service that they will discuss with the Pastor.
- Pastor Haynes asked to use vacation time during the first week of January.
- The UM Women will have their annual Christmas fellowship at Hope Guffey's home on December 5th.
- The UM Men will meet on December 10th and again on January 14th.

There being no further business to be brought before the council, the council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Guffey - Recording Secretary