Church Council Minutes

First UMC Arlington

June 18, 2024

Members Present:

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| Taylor Jackson | Jacki Reininga | Betsy Spencer |
| Shari Harrington | Johnnie Sue Bucek | Holly Maxwell |
| Molly Hayes | Cathy Olson | Chris Olson |
| Betty Dalton | Heather Hanson | Chris Hayes |
| Janet Gray | Scott Russell | C.J. Reddig |
| Madison Boboltz | Shawn Dickler | Kirby Warren |
| Sean Hale | Betsi Goode | Rich Crosier |
| John Knapp | Edward Castillo | Kay Lancaster |
| Rob Franz |  |  |

1. Welcome/Devotional/Prayer – 6:05 pm
   1. Pastor Madison presented a devotional on the history of Juneteenth.
2. Committee Reports
   1. Finance – Heather 6:14 pm
      1. Giving is down quite a bit this year; currently ~$13k under budget; total expenses for the period over by ~15% (grant for Scout Hut drawing, paid off the balance of HVAC loan, 3 pay period month).
      2. $68k left to pay on apportionments, we are on track to pay in full this year.
      3. We are switching to Planning Center (more cost & user friendly); looking for volunteers to move their giving over to the new system so we can see how everything moves over and integrates.
         1. Molly Hayes told Church Council we have realized both staff and members are frustrated with Shelby. The new platform makes giving a lot easier. Looking to launch at the beginning of the school year if the July trial run goes well.
         2. Betty Dalton asked if there were any kind of training videos. YES – it has tons of videos available; we will link those to the website, visit Sunday School classes, offer classes, etc.
   2. Trustees – Betty Dalton 6:24 pm
      1. Paid final payment to the vendor for HVAC.
      2. Leak issue – currently Confirmation Class area (2nd floor southwest corner), has leaks that significantly impact the spaces. The 2018 hailstorm did damage that wasn’t covered by insurance, so it was patched. Comparing the cost of $33k to seal the roof with silicon or $200k to replace the entire roof.
      3. All investment areas are stable.
      4. Chris Hayes gave a word of thanks to the Trustees Committee and Shawn Dickler for how great the A/C is working this summer and how much of a difference it is between last summer and this year.
   3. PPR – Rob Franz 6:27 pm
      1. Roger Stephens’s retirement party at 10 am in Great Hall on June 30; there is a sign-up genius for people to sign up for food; Greg made a Facebook event for people who want to contribute a gift.
3. Annual Conference Reflections - 6:30 pm
   1. Chris Hayes shared that this was the 158th annual conference of the CTC and the final one because we’re merging the Central & North Texas Conferences to become the Horizon Texas Conference. We celebrated Cathy Olson again (Morris Walker award) with a video tribute at the Conference.
   2. Johnnie Sue Bucek shared we had a representative from every decade (teens to 70s) in our group that went; lovely to see people get along. Asks everyone to pray over the people who may lose their jobs from the CTC as they merge.
   3. Betsi Goode said it was her first time going to the full Conference and she spoke highly of the speakers.
   4. Chris Olson expressed that the decisions made at the General Conference which removed exclusionary language and allowed deacons to give communion set some people at ease. The general mood was good, one pastor from a group even skipped down the aisle.
   5. Cathy Olson said her favorite thing was the special speaker, Michael Geiger. Has been at Galveston for 10 years. Started with 4 people in the Congregation and $40k in the budget. He tried to get to know his community and has grown his church abundantly since then.
   6. Madison told the group a youth-targeted resolution was passed, allowing them to form a larger relationship with the United Methodist church. Passed another resolution that’s the same but for Campus relationships (like our relationship with the UTA Wesley).
   7. Kay Lancaster reported on the newly commissioned group of CTC/NTC clergy who were here (First UMC Arlington) today for the Residents’ Retreat.
   8. Chris Hayes wrapped up by asking folks to reflect on the “asset-based” ministry mindset set forth by Michael Geiger and his church in Galveston. Instead of thinking about what are our deficits, think instead of what our assets are.
4. Other Announcements/Next Meeting
   1. Ctcumc.org for July 22 baseball game (Ranger’s stadium) – UMC night, Bishop Saenz throwing out the first pitch. Link: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Unitedmethodist5?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR14tjPUJWU6a9TYqPQc90soZKX5oke5I5UwJBlZvZ3MKOmypFzFOYtSEDk_aem_Y_i54ghxrM1pB2qcpC8O8Q> (purchase deadline: Monday, July 22)
   2. Videos from the Conference should be up soon ([www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org))
   3. Molly Hayes – UM churches of Arlington are helping to sponsor the back-to-school event that’s hosted at AT&T on August 3 (8 am-1 pm); ‘You Are Loved’ shirts are available. Can’t figure out how to sign up as volunteers yet, but once we know how we will share. Must be an approved AISD volunteer, it is now open for the next school year. Contact Molly Hayes for more information.
   4. Congregational Conversation August 25 at 12 pm
   5. Church Council September 24

Ended at 7:05 pm.