

Christ United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
August 18, 2024

Attendance: Carl Ashby, Morris Brown, Mark Ledford, Katey Galyon, Nikki Baten, Nancy Reaves, Liz Vanderveer, Art Graves, Cameron Chantry, Stephanie Williams Beal, Kathy Wickline, Amberly Johnston, Krystal Pruitt, Mark Sampson, Lori Gray, Michael Foster, Sally Lewis, Debby Hayes, Ron Eberhardt, Stephanie Vanoy, Gloria Thornton, Amy Travis, William Wynn, Garrett Collins, Barry Safrit, Kathie Amato, Angie Hager, Carolyn McKinney

- Carl welcomed everyone to the meeting. Katey provided the opening prayer.
- The Council approved the June 2 meeting minutes.
- **Council Chair Update** - Carl posted the upcoming meeting schedule and reminded work areas to have their meetings prior to Council meetings. He noted the real-time church directory with the ability to search by name. Photos can be sent to Susan Pabon.
- **Senior Minister Update** – Morris shared that he is beginning his 8th year at CUMC and is so pleased. We are so blessed to have Garrett and he is excited about the future of CUMC. He noted some highlights: excellent attendance throughout the summer, Olympic series was well received, lots of new faces, exciting new changes to our facility - two district offices will be moving to our church which will require some renovation above the existing offices, including the addition of an elevator. This addition will make us the center of Methodism. Nominations are currently in progress as well as middle staff supervision training. The senior staff will visit Church of the Resurrection in Sept. There is a team working on re-branding CUMC.
- **Youth Pastor** - Garrett is excited about CUMC youth going forward. The Youth Center is getting a fresh update with paint and furniture. He shared his philosophy on what youth ministry means to him, which includes involving youth in a number of ways by entwining them in the life of the church and community.
- **Finance Committee** – Barry Safrit reported that our revenue is fairly close to where expected; a little over budget level with expenses. We trimmed our investments ~ \$100k. We continue to be in a strong financial position as a church with investments continuing to grow with ~ 3.9m (2.9m restricted, 1m unrestricted.) The Grant Program continues with 4 approved grants to date for ~\$60k.
- **Foundation and Ministry Work Area 2024**
 - **Connections** – Lori Gray shared that in Sept. we will have a new mobile option “I am new here” where you can register and will get multiple responses from the church which will help track attendance.
 - **Generosity** – Lori Gray reported that 2-3 thank you notes have been sent to first time givers, where there has been a 2.2% increase in the past year. Generosity Challenge in Sept.
 - **Trustees** – Mark Ledford reporting for Britt Blaylock: continue exploring the addition of solar panels for Creation Care, expansion of attic space into useable space creating 3 more small spaces for small groups on Sunday morning, evaluating some potential gym space for Sunday morning use. He listed multiple (internal and external) deferred maintenance items completed due to the \$100k grant from Finance.

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- **Staff - Parish Relations** - Michael Foster reported they are looking to hire a new CEC director. They are successfully working toward the goals set for this year.
- **Worship & Arts** – Amberly Johnston reported there was a push for Sanctuary Care in June and they got new volunteers. They are involving more children and youth in Sunday services as well as continuing the long vision of utilizing our space for concerts, etc.
- **Kids Ahead** – Stephanie Williams Beal shared that the improvements to the playground have been completed and they are great! A big celebration is planned for 9/8 for both the church and the surrounding community.
- **Discipleship** – Gloria Thornton noted highlights of summer opportunities, some of which included multiple intergenerational activities, youth camps and mission service, and children’s VBS and camp. They are working on 2 upcoming events: 9/8 churchwide 10am service and 9/15 small group kickoff. There is an ongoing effort to both create and support small groups and encourage participation.
- **United Women in Faith** - Kathy Wickline shared there is an upcoming new officer District meeting in September. They have added 17 new members since June and they have an upcoming food collection for the Family Shelter.
- **Kids Ministry** - Krystal noted they are working toward smaller group leader numbers to enable closer relationships as well as opportunities of ways to connect outside of Sunday services. Inclusion training is planned for all leaders at CUMC in order to make us more accommodating churchwide. Back to school celebration will be done in both services due to the attendance number in both.
- **Congregational Care** - Nancy Reaves shared various forms of the Team’s ministries was featured in Lori’s News from the Pews article in July.
- **Creation Care** – Sally Lewis explained they are still getting their feet wet and working toward establishing goals. They are working on both a compost bin on campus as well as educating the congregation.
- **Missional Engagement** – Stephanie Vanoy reported they continue to work on getting the monthly meal serving at Urban Ministry shifts filled. Other items include: investigating an international mission trip in 2025, finalizing the budget by the end of September, food drive in conjunction with UWF in Sept/Oct, and soliciting new team members.
- **Race, Reconciliation, and Social Justice** - Kathie Amato and Debbie Hayes reported the Summer Sunday School Series was positively received. They are hoping for a fall field trip to the Civil Rights Museum (with possibly a virtual tour on Sunday since they are closed) as well as exploring future opportunities for educational field trips. They are also investigating opportunities to engage youth in the Glenwood area.
- Garrett provided the closing prayer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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