

DFUMC Church Council Agenda

Date & Time:	Feb 13, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.
Location:	Fellowship Hall
Pastors:	Revs. Dalton Rushing and Blair Setnor
Council:	Chair Sandy Kruger, Vice Chair John Copeland, Finance Chair Tom Barefoot, Lay Leader Rick Gillig, Staff-Parish Relations Director Kate Merrihew, Trustees Director Josh Andrews, Connect Team Chair Chris Opstad, Engage Team Chair Michael Black, Grow Team Chair Madeline Mulkey, Worship Team Chair Sybil Davidson, Story Keeper Karen Horace, and Treasurer Julie Childs
Staff:	Andie Ashe and Tracy Frost

Agenda details:

- I. Opening prayer (2 min) – Dalton opened us in prayer
- II. Approval of January meeting minutes (2 min) – Rick motioned we approve the minutes, Julie seconded, the minutes were approved.
- III. Worship and campus updates – Dalton (5 min) Dalton gave an update. Covid numbers are dropping. We've had some preschool parents ask about removing the mask requirements for children, but we are holding off on that for now. The tent is coming back up on March 3, we plan to have it up for the entire summer. The Men's Enneagram workshop was a success – we had thirty-one men in attendance. Holy Week services are coming back this year at noon each weekday. On Easter we will have services outside at 7:30am and 9am, and inside at 11am.
- IV. Council governance packet – Daniel (5 min) Daniel requested that everyone on council review our guiding principles and sign the conflict of interest and confidentiality forms. Sandy requested that we share the updated version of the guiding principles that include the social justice committee.
- V. APUMC and 2/27 Congregational meeting – Dalton (30 min) Dalton gave a quick update and requested that the council. The mayor of Avondale Estates is interested in Senior Living. Colliers has stated that the property is potentially worth \$1M/acre (and the property is seven acres). For the Congregational Meeting on 2/27, the goal will be to vote Yes/No on accepting the property by the end of the month. Frank Windom has been out of town, but Dalton is collaborating with him to organize a tour of the property for the council and staff. Frank and the DS and the Bishop are talking about his backpay. We are applying to the Barnes Fund (through the conference) that we could use on carrying costs, utilities, and/or staffing. Harry Yeomans has offered to help oversee any facilities work that is needed in the short term. Daniel and Tracy are meeting with the insurance agent on 2/15 and will know

more on that day. Dalton is working on getting current bills from APUMC so we know what the ongoing costs will be. Tracy mentioned we will need to examine the stormwater tax. Tom mentioned that we should have a complete list of any outstanding bills and liabilities for the congregational meeting. APUMC will legally be closed on 2/28/22. We talked about why the conference wants this to be done this way – it helps to make sure that this property is used for active ministry in a growing and vibrant area that needs it. Julie mentioned that the answer to the question “what is the exact long-term plan?” is “we don’t know. We are voting now on whether to embark on this journey, and then we will continue to discern our next steps.” Sandy asked how we will communicate how APUMC fits into our future story. Dalton is going to talk to Karen Horace and Josh Andrews in the next week about this. Julie recommended that we tell congregation members to drive through the property so they can conceptualize it. Michael stated that we should bring guest speakers from other churches that have done this (College Park, Smyrna First, etc.). The meeting on 2/27 is at 12pm. To the question “why can’t we just do that here?” The answer is that there is a whole community in Avondale that won’t travel here (including people in the Dekalb Jail nearby). Another advantage we have seen from this model is that these multi-site churches get a lot of their annual revenue through renting out facilities. Tom asked about rental income rules for taxation, Tracy mentioned that rental. Dalton asked that any council members who can attend should be there on Wednesday 2/23 to help answer questions. 2/23 at 6pm and 7pm, Dalton is working on the location.

VI. Vision team updates – Vision team leaders (10 min)

- a. **Grow** – the team met on 2/9. They have received great interest in the confirmation letters – youth will be receiving these letters over the course of their confirmation experience, and also will be receiving Bibles, sponsored by the Grow team. Grow is also partnering with Taylor and the Youth on prayer rocks, which allows congregation members to be actively praying for the youth. Grow is working with Janice on the new member reach outs and the girls book club.
- b. **Connect** – the Men’s Enneagram workshop was a great success! In today’s meeting the team discussed starting a Women’s enneagram workshop. Ash Wednesday will be a bluegrass service. The church Directory is going to happen! Realm has an option for the directory to be printed, including color photos. The Welcome team will be supporting Holy Week services, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Easter Eats will also be happening
- c. **Engage** – The February food drive was conducted on 2/6. The next one will occur in three months to spread out food deliveries from A home for everyone in Dekalb is looking at affordable housing in Avondale. Nate Abrams presented from the Ecumenical Garden Project, and Engage is exploring developing the area where the apple trees are located. Engage is interested in partnering with the staff on Easter outreach.

VII. 2022 Campus projects – Daniel (5 min) Sandy has been in conversation with two congregation members about their concerns related to spending money from the Sycamore property on deferred maintenance. We talked about how this type of spending was part of the previous Master Plan discussions, including the roof replacement and the cooling tower. The language from the resolution states

“the net proceeds from the sale of the Property shall be used only for capital expenses which have been duly approved by a church conference.” We talked about capital campaigns - They tend to reduce annual giving by 10-20%, they require additional manpower. Sandy stated that we need to maintain and invest in our property in order to live out our mission. Tracy is going to look at the total earnings in the Vanguard account. Tom suggested that we show the request as a percentage of the principal we invested into Vanguard (without the earnings included). Julie and Tom noted that we have never budgeted for big maintenance projects. Sandy has requested that we look at the minutes from the meetings related to selling the sycamore property. We all agreed that we appreciate the tone and the respect we have heard from congregation members with concerns.

- VIII. 2021 Impact Report – Daniel (5 min) This report showing our impact in the community is going out this week in the mail with a letter from Dalton.
- IX. Finance – Tom (5 min) Tom gave the update on the December financials. We had several gifts received just after the end of the year and these will be reflected in the January statements. We ended the year with more revenue than expenses. Our cash position is good with over \$100K in the church operating checking account. Our pre-paid pledges are lower this year than the previous year. The preschool runs on the school year (rather than the calendar year) so even though there is currently a net loss, we expect this loss to diminish by May. Tracy continues to reconcile the designated fund balances monthly. Our utilities expenses are higher this year (and this is reflected in the budget. Tom moved that we accept the finance report, Madeline seconded, and the motion passed.
- X. SPR – Kate (5 min)
- XI. Public Comment - (5 min)
- XII. Old or new business - (5 min)
- XIII. Closing - (2 min) Sandy adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm