DFUMC Church Council Minutes

Date & Time:	**Jan 21, 2024 – 12:00 p.m.**
Location:	**Room 207**
Pastors:	**Revs. Dalton Rushing, Blair Setnor, Laura Rappold**
Council:	**Council Chair Clair Hope Wallace, Vice Chair Davis Edwards, Finance Chair Tom Barefoot, Lay Leader Rick Gillig, Staff-Parish Relations Director Marion Dearing, Trustees Director Josh Andrews, Connect Team Chair Cindy Petersen, Grow Team Chair Madeline Mulkey Ledford, Worship Team Chair Ruth Brown, Treasurer John Bartholomew, Story Keeper Karen Horace, Engage Team Chair Jim Kiernicki**
Guests:	**Gary Garrett, Solar Team**

Agenda details:

I. Opening prayer (2 min) – Blair opened the meeting in prayer at 12:14pm

II. Approval of December meeting minutes (2 min) – Rick motioned to approve the minutes from December, Davis seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved. Dalton provided an update from nominations. Julie Childs will not be able to serve on the church council this year; the nominating committee has nominated John Bartholomew to serve on the council as the Secretary/Treasurer. The council voted and approved the nomination of John to the council.

III. Vision Team updates – vision team leaders (5 min each)

Madeline gave the GROW team report. The GROW team has not met yet this year. The GROW team will be sponsoring an Enneagram workshop in 2024.

Jim gave the ENGAGE team report. John Bartholomew used to be on the Engage team but now is serving on the council. Jim asked about the process and expectations for filling vacancies on the vision teams. Dalton stated that the Sr. Pastor is heavily involved in the process; Jim will consider some nominees and speak to Dalton. Jim has also drafted a mission statement for Engage to clarify its goals and values.

Ruth gave an update on the WORSHIP team. The worship team will be meeting every two months during 2024. The committee is recommending that the church council consider renovating the sanctuary to allow a number of goals to be achieved, including making the chancel area accessible. Dalton affirmed this plan. Worship team is also considering how to inform visitors about our liturgy, and have been tasked to visit other churches to see their worship services and bring back thoughts and recommendations (if any)

Cindy gave the CONNECT team update. Connect has not yet met in 2024 but will meet towards the end of February. There are three vacancies on the team and Cindy is working on filling them.

IV. Vision Team expectations – Blair and Dalton (10 min) – Dalton and Blair have been working on clarifying expectations for the vision teams for 2024. Blair noted that the goal is to empower vision team leaders to lead each of the teams, and to be aligned on common theme(s) for the year. This year the council is asking the vision teams to plan and execute about 3 events and/or ministries for the church to participate in during the year. Each team has a staff person liaison. The theme for 2024 is Removing Barriers for all people to participate in the life of the church. (Some examples: online access to worship, ASL interpreters, large print literature, support of mental health, etc.) Karen is planning to meet with each of the vision team leaders to level-set on priorities for the year collaboratively.

V. Avondale Pattillo – Laura / Josh / Dalton (10 min) – Josh motioned to go into executive session, Rick seconded the motion, and the council went into Executive Session (See notes in separate document).

VI. Council governance packet and authorized signers – Clair (5 min) – Marion made a motion to approve the authorized signers, Rick seconded, and the motion passed. Daniel will work with the banks to update authorized signers passed by the council motion.

VII. Financial Report – Daniel (10 min)

- December financials – Daniel gave an update. The church finished the year with more than $49,000 in net operating income. The church's cash position is strong. The council approved the December report.
- 2024 Budget updates – Daniel reviewed the small changes to the 2024 budget since it was passed in December. Avondale Pattillo expenses were lowered slightly due to lower expected utility costs. Income has been adjusted to reflect new pledges since the December council meeting. Rick made a motion to approve the budget, Cindy seconded the motion and the updated 2024 budget was approved.
- 2024 Endowment update – Daniel shared that he and Dalton met with Tim Edmunds, the new chair of the endowment committee. The endowment committee will be determining the amount of the 2024 endowment withdrawal in the next 6 weeks.

VIII. Solar Panels – Rick (10 min) – Rick gave an update on the solar panel project. The committee is considering three contractors, all have been easy to work with. The committee has developed a list of criteria to evaluate the vendors and will bring a recommendation back to the council in the February meeting; expect it to take 4-6 weeks to rate the contractors per the committee's criteria. Dalton stated that we have received approval from our District Superintendent to have a congregational meeting on March 3. Dalton asked that the committee think about (1) what information needs to go out to the congregation in advance of the meeting and (2) what information will be shared AT the meeting. Josh mentioned that we should anticipate some of the key questions that the congregation will ask, such as a one-page FAQ. This project aligns perfectly with our overall master planning process. In addition, ERTC funds, if they arrive, may cover most of the cost of this proposal. Clair asked that the task force create a list of questions for a FAQ and we could bring that back to the February meeting.

IX. SPR – Marion (2 min) – There were no SPR items to discuss. Marion looks forward to the rest of the year.

X. Old or new business - (5 min) –

a. Cindy asked about the move of the District Superintendent office to Decatur First. The Central South District office used to be at Conyers First United Methodist and that church disaffiliated. The district office now rents space from DFUMC to use three of the gym classrooms. We anticipate changes to the number of districts in the conference after this year's Annual Conference, which would affect the location of the District Offices again.
b. Madeline asked about General Conference coming up in April/May. Dalton expects "regionalization" to pass, which would allow the US to make changes to the Book of Discipline for its own area. Madeline suggested that we host listening sessions for the congregation to ask questions about General Conference (such as on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings)

XI. Closing - (2 min)

Next Meeting: February 11