DFUMC Church Council Agenda

Date & Time:	**Aug 13, 2023 – 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 Kate Merrihew, Trustees Director Josh Andrews, Connect Team Chair Chris Opstad, Grow Team Chair Madeline Mulkey Ledford, Worship Team Chair Sybil Davidson, and Treasurer Julie Childs, Story Keeper Karen Horace, Engage Team Chair Michael Black**
Guests:	

Agenda details:

I. Opening prayer (2 min) – Dalton opened the meeting in prayer at 12:17pm

II. Approval of June meeting minutes (2 min) – Tom made a suggestion to clarify how to reflect the council's decision to approve the Ministry Assistant position. We are not going to make changes to the 2023 budget, but the council has approved a budget overage for payroll in the current year. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes, Madeline seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

III. Senior Pastor update – Dalton (5 min) – Dalton thanked the council for the time in July. Dalton and Laura will be going to Northern Ireland in November of this year with a group from our district in the conference. Dalton spoke about the similarities between the historical conflict in Ireland and the conflicts currently playing out in the UMC.

IV. Financial Report – Tom (5 min) – Tom gave the financial report to the council, including June and July. The church is ahead of budget for pledged contributions. The preschool paid bonuses to the teachers for the 22-23 school year, and these will be reflected in the school year report that will be published in the next month. Tom motioned to approve the June financials, Julie seconded, and the June financials were approved. Dalton and Tom discussed the reduction in rental income this year, largely due to the film writer's strike. Tom reviewed the July financials. The church's YTD income and expenses are very strong, especially for this point in the year. Tom noted that payroll and utilities expenses are below budget for the year and cash flow is good. The preschool started their new school year in July. We had three pay periods in June so payroll expenses were higher than usual. The last quarter of pre-paid pledge income will be reflected in the financials in October. Tom made a motion to approve the July financials, Julie seconded, the council voted and the July financials were approved.

V. End of year Council calendar – Clair (5 min)

Clair reviewed the agenda for upcoming council meetings for the rest of the year. The September meeting will include clergy reviews. Kate stated that she will send out a google form to collect feedback for that meeting. The September meeting will include the move/stay form for clergy. Clair mentioned that the October 8 meeting we will include the approval of the clergy compensation and charge conference reports. The council will have the annual planning retreat on Saturday 11/11 at DFUMC. In the December meeting, the council will approve next year's budget. Dalton mentioned that we will be discussing Avondale Pattillo in more detail this fall.

VI. Solar Panels – Daniel (10 min) – we talked through the quotes that we received for the solar panels. Rick recommended that we ask vendors for the wattage for each of the systems as well as the cost of a battery backup. Dalton mentioned that the total cost is less important if we are planning on financing the installation. Tom asked about the pros and cons for placing panels on the sanctuary vs the gym. Dalton asked about the future of the gym for the campus overall. Clair mentioned that the gym is an asset for the church in terms of drawing new visitors. Dalton suggested that a commercial kitchen has been suggested by congregation members for years, and that we should discuss how a commercial kitchen would impact any other facilities projects over the next few years. Dalton requested that we discuss financing options for the solar panels. Sybil mentioned that Cherry Street Energy might be an option for financing for us. Tom stated that we could ask the congregation to make a withdrawal from the Sycamore fund for this if needed. Julie mentioned that we could ask the United Methodist Foundation for favorable financing too. Kate suggested Richard Piercy to get more information about Solar Panels. Daniel asked for volunteers from the council to be part of a "solar task force." Rick Gillig, Michael Black, and Josh Andrews (trustees) will be on the task force.

VII. Old or new business - (5 min). Kate stated that the stage is being erected at Avondale Pattillo this week for the Music Man Drama performances the weekend of Oct 6 and 7. Glenn is the director of the Callanwolde band and he will be the music director for the performances. Kate is looking into portable bathrooms for the performances.

VIII. Vision team reports –

- Chris provided the update from the Connect team. We have a printed directory! Connect will also be supporting Consecration Sunday Rise Against Hunger event, including coffee and donuts. Chris reminded the council meet our new ministry assistant, JR McCall!
- Madeline provided the update from Grow. We are considering an event about best social media practices for parents.
- Sybil gave the update from the Worship team. Third grade Bibles will be given out on Sep. 10. There will be a blessing of the animals at Avondale Pattillo on Oct 14. All Saints Sunday is Nov 6. The first Sunday of Advent is Dec 3.
- Michael gave the update from Engage. Engage is planning to participate with the United Methodists marching in the Atlanta Pride parade on Sunday Oct 15th. It is a time commitment, but a great way to meet other N. GA United Methodists

IX. Closing - (2 min) – Laura closed the meeting in prayer at 1:23pm.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2023