DFUMC Church Council Agenda

Date & Time:	**Sep 11, 2022 - 3:00 p.m.**
Location:	**Room 209**
Pastors:	**Revs. Dalton Rushing, Blair Setnor, Laura Rappold**
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, Grow Team Chair Madeline Mulkey, Worship Team Chair Sybil Davidson, and Treasurer Julie Childs, Story Keeper Karen Horace, Engage Team Chair Michael Black**

Agenda details:

I. Opening prayer (2 min) – Dalton opened the meeting in prayer

II. Approval of August meeting minutes (2 min) – Rick made a motion to approve the minutes, Tom seconded, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

III. Reconciling Ministries (RMN) – Blair (10 min) – Blair gave an update on RMN. The session with Emily Bagwell two weeks ago went well. Anjie Peek Woodworth is coming to speak on 9/14 about her experience with RMN. Several members of the church and staff will be speaking on 9/28 for our final Wednesday night session. Dalton provided an update on the survey that went out to the congregation – we are seeing overwhelming support (over 90% yes on all the questions asked). Blair shared that the RMN affiliation statement we will vote on does not have to become our church welcome statement; we should have additional conversations about formulating our DFUMC welcome statement. There will be a straw poll that will be coming out after the 9/14 RMN listening session.

IV. Rise Against Hunger – Laura (5 min) – Laura shared that Rise Against Hunger is a meal-packing non-profit that sends non-perishable meals to people in need. Dalton and Laura have been thinking about doing a Rise Against Hunger event on Consecration Sunday. For Consecration Sunday, we could do a shortened service at 9am, then move to the Gym as a congregation to pack meals, followed by a second service after 11am, with a second shift packing meals at noon. We have received a gift from a congregation member that will cover over half of the total cost. We could use some of the Julia Gary money to cover the remaining cost, and we can use some of the money we had budgeted for our Consecration Sunday catered meal for that purpose. If we use Julia Gary money, Michael Black will get feedback from the Engage team. The church council decided they will bring donuts and drinks for the congregation that day.

V. Warming Shelter – Laura/Michael (5 min) – Laura and Michael shared that they met with A Home For Everyone in Dekalb (AHFEID) to discuss the warming shelter. We partnered with this organization when we had the warming shelter onsite in 2019. We plan to partner again to run the warming shelter this winter, from November 15 to February 15, any night when the temperature is expected to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Up to 25 guests experiencing homelessness with stay in our gym overnight when the warming shelter is in operation. The Engage team is sponsoring this initiative and Tom Merrihew will be coordinating with AHFEID on the logistics. AHFEID will provide managers to oversee the shelter, bedding and supplies, and will be responsible for cleaning the gym and bathrooms each morning. We will need DFUMC volunteers to make dinners, provide breakfast, and sign up for evening and overnight shifts. Daniel is working with the staff to notify the existing users of our gym (such as Basketball groups or DFUMC Youth) that they will not have access to the gym when the warming shelter is in session. This winter, we will make an announcement in worship each Sunday noting how many people were served in the warming shelter. The members of the council agreed that we should move forward with this initiative.

VI. Financial report – Tom (5 min) – Tom noted that one line in the July financials was incorrect – in July we had *higher* than expected expenses and *lower* than expected income. Daniel will make an edit to the financial notes and re-post. Tom noted that while we have a negative margin for the year so far, we typically see a slump in giving in the Summer and additional giving in the fall and end of the year. Tom and Dalton talked about the pre-paid pledges….we have so far pulled $21K, but have $43K left in the account for the second half of the year. Tom gave the report for the preschool and Avondale Pattillo financials. Tom asked for a vote to approve a revision for the July financial notes (to reflect the higher/lower language). Julie seconded the motion, the council voted, and the motion passed. Tom made a motion to approve the July financials (with the revision included), Karen seconded the motion, the council voted, and the motion passed.

VII. Lay leadership – Dalton (2 min) – Dalton gave an update on Nominations. Dalton will send the current roster for Council and the vision teams out the council. The nominations committee will meet before the October council meeting. The council will likely vote on the slate of nominees during the October council meeting.

VIII. Nov. Retreat Agenda – Dalton (5 min) – Dalton booked Russell Davis from the conference retreats ministry for our Council Retreat. This retreat will include the new council members coming in for the 2023 year. We will likely do 9am – 1pm and will have lunch as well. The council discussed what to discuss during the retreat. Tom mentioned that we should make sure new council members get to hear the priorities of the council. Julie mentioned that we should set 3-5 priorities for the year, and start to build out the implementation plan for each of these as well. Dalton talked about the importance of defining roles and responsibilities for lay leadership and for the staff. Blair suggested that program staff also attend so that staff and lay leadership are present for this conversation. Karen suggested that we alter the timeline for the meeting so that we do some of the brainstorming work *prior* to the November meeting. Sandy suggested that we set a schedule for the Council for the coming year, including dates and times for council retreats. Karen will convene the vision team leaders and program staff.

IX. Avondale Pattillo updates – Laura/Josh (10 min) Laura mentioned that she and Josh have been discussing options for the AP property with the city of Avondale Estates. Josh reviewed some draft plans from a developer for affordable senior housing on the property. One consideration is working around the "fall zone" for the water tower at the back of the property – Josh suggested that work with a professional firm to understand the rules for the water tower fall zone. Another consideration is the amount of greenspace we retain when considering development proposals. Josh noted that the development company would also manage the property for the first 15 years. The council discussed the concerns with the proposal as it is presented. The council members stated that they are comfortable with Josh and Laura continuing to talk with this group to get these questions answered. Josh reviewed the goals for us for the property: (1) get floorplans and build a digital model of the property, (2) build a budget for the maintenance/repair/construction work we need to do and (3) build a master site plan for our vision for the property. Josh suggested that we hire an architect to work with us in this process.

X. Vision team reports – Vision team leaders (5 min each)

Chris spoke on behalf of Connect. The Connect team has called every household who will be in the directory and has been updating the directory listing. The directory will be available online and there will also be printed copies: (1) for each Sunday School class and (2) additional copies in the front office. Josh is working with Andie on the process for installing the signage in the building.

Madeline shared the Grow team update. The Grow team sponsored the Godly Play training that happened at the church on 9/10. Madeline is looking for more members to serve on the Grow team for next year.

(For the Worship team report, Sybil was not able to attend)

Michael shared an update from Engage. Engage met with Andy Yates to talk through the plan for Avondale Pattillo. The food and Bible drive went well after the church service on 9/11. There will be a solar assessment for our roof on Monday, 9/19. Engage is also working with Vicki Mann to conduct a talk on Creation Care. Dalton asked Michael to consider the times of the food drive, since the afternoon time was chosen during the pandemic. Rick suggested that we do food drives more often given the need at food pantries.

XI. SPR – Kate (30 min) Chris made a motion to go into Executive Session. Kate seconded. The council voted to go into Executive Session (see notes in separate document).

XII. Public Comment - (5 min)

XIII. Old or new business - (5 min)

XIV. Closing - (2 min)