

DFUMC Church Council Agenda

Date & Time:	Aug 14, 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 at 3:03pm
- II. Approval of May meeting minutes (2 min) – Julie motioned to approve the minutes, Sybil seconded, and the minutes were passed
- III. Reconciling Ministries (RMN) – Blair (15 min) – Blair provided an update on RMN. A small group from Engage got together and planned out three meetings to occur over the next 8 weeks, on Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 7pm. In the first meeting, Emily Bagwell will present. Blair and Michael Black are planning a straw poll to occur after the first meeting. Anjie Peek Woodworth will speak in the 2nd meeting, sharing updates about how Neighborhood UMC went through this process. In the 3rd meeting, several members from DFUMC will present. We talked about the key question for communicating to the congregation: “What is RMN? Why do we need to do it?” Sandy suggested having some FAQs around the RMN process that we can share. We can direct people to RMNetwork.org to learn more. If a church chooses to become a reconciling church, it votes to accept a mission statement that includes language about being inclusive and welcoming to everyone. RMN recommends a 75% vote for the straw poll to ensure that the congregation is ready to take the next step towards affiliating with RMN. We can use an online survey to conduct the straw poll and gather feedback, including questions like “what would you be excited about?” “what fears do you have about taking this step?” We talked about the pros/cons of doing a survey after the first meeting or after the second meeting. Blair will email the welcome statement to the council and the council will respond with any questions or concerns.

- IV. Avondale Pattillo updates – Laura (10 min) – Laura gave the update. We have hired a new facilities associate who can support the ongoing maintenance and repair work at Avondale Pattillo. On 8/15, we will have another “cleanup day” to organize and clean up the little house at the front of the property and also the office suite in the main building. Laura is starting to get requests from both church members and potential community partners. Sandy will bring AP to the Executive Director Round Table she is part of to gather interest from more nonprofits. Laura is working with Andy Yates to move forward on the vision for the property. Josh shared his thoughts about sequencing our next steps, including providing access to the property, creating a list of all of the repairs/renovations needed, and planning which spaces are used for programs, and estimating total costs (including bringing in new furniture, etc). There will be a cost associated with getting the property ready for a partial sale that will fund further work on the property. We have \$49,000 set aside for these costs.
- V. Campus Signage – Chris / Andie (10 min) – Chris shared a draft plan for signage changes inside and outside the church. The plan includes arrows throughout the building directing people to three of the most commonly used spaces – (1) the sanctuary, (2) the fellowship hall and (3) the gym. The Exterior plan will include painting the steps up to the gym lobby and marking this as more of a “main entrance”. There will also be signs that direct people to accessible parking. We anticipate this will cost about \$10,000 (which falls in line with the expected costs from our congregational vote earlier in the year). We talked about how to direct people to the 3rd floor for children’s Sunday School. May want to include additional signage for that space. Julie recommended that we have a clear sign for the elevators.
- VI. Facilities projects – Daniel (5 min) – Daniel provided a quick update on where we stand with the facilities projects for the year. We have completed the work on the parking lot and the roof. The big remaining projects include upgrading the narthex bathrooms and completing the reinstallation of the cooling tower. The narthex bathrooms will be more expensive than anticipated.
- VII. Financial reports (April, May, June) – Tom (15 min) – Tom went over the financial reports from June, May, and April. We are in a better position in June than a typical year where we lower summer income. Dalton and Sandy noted that even when we have rental income for use of our parking lot and facilities, the majority of our expenses will come from gifts and pledges from the congregation. Tom reviewed the preschool financials – the preschool ended the 21-22 school year with a small loss and is on track for full enrollment in the 22-23 school year. For April and May, there is nothing substantial to report – pledged and non-pledged income has been strong. Tom submitted the financial reports from April for approval and the council voted to approve them. Tom submitted the financial reports from May for approval and the council approved them. Tom submitted the financial reports for June and the council voted to approve them. Tom shared an update on the audit of our 2021 financials – the audit is still underway and Tracy and Daniel have been providing receipts for purchases to the auditors. The audit is expected to wrap up by September of this year.

VIII. Bicentennial – Julie (2 min) – Julie gave an update on the Breakthru House graduation that took place at DFUMC. Julie gave thanks for Lydia, OC, and Zay for setting up the ceremony and the reception, and for Neil for playing music as the graduates and their families arrived. For the Bicentennial, Julie shared that the weekend of 4/23/23, the Bishop will preach on Sunday and there will be a picnic on campus. There is a small committee that is planning for that weekend. Julie is asking for congregation members to meet with Tammy the historian so we can update our history before the event. Rick suggested that Sunday School leaders ask the classes to participate with the historian. There will also be a “legacy program” where we ask for church members to add Decatur First in their wills. Also, there will be a tour of the chapel on Saturday 4/22/23 that afternoon, and a concert in our Sanctuary that evening. The concert will raise money for our partners Wellroot, DCM, and Breakthru House. Mark Jones (Bevel Jones son) will do a logo for our event. We will also have Christmas ornaments for sale. The UMW will also be creating a cookbook that we can sell to raise additional funds for our ministry partners. There will also be a UMW event. We might do a special mission day the Sunday before to celebrate the missions of the church, where we post pictures of the history in the hallways and fellowship hall. The city of Decatur and Dekalb County are also celebrating their bicentennials next year. There will also be a “welcome All” event where we offer ice cream to the community. We decided that we should include a card in the stewardship mailing this fall that will tell members to save the date for April

IX. Fall council calendar – Daniel (2 min) – Daniel reviewed a draft calendar for agenda items for the council in the next four months. We plan to approve the nominations report in the October meeting, and then will have a council retreat on Nov 12 where we set the vision and the initial budget for 2023.

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

Sybil gave the Worship report. We are looking for volunteers to restart the Acolyte program.

Chris gave the Connect report. The team is starting to contact church members to request that they update their photos. The next photobooth Sunday will be on Sept. 11. The Welcome team continues to grow. Chris and Laura and Dalton are talking about potentially doing a service project on consecration Sunday in October.

Michael gave the Engage report. There are a several Afghani families and Ukranian refugees who need assistance with getting acclimated to their lives in the US. For the match for Project Transformation, we were able to provide \$5,000 to Project Transformation with the help of the church-sponsored matching program. There is a group that wants to show off electric vehicles on our campus – this will be scheduled for Oct 3rd. The next donation drive will be on Sept 11. DCM asked for some supplies in July and we were able to provide what they needed. A Home for Everyone in Dekalb (AHFEID) has asked for us to host a Warming Shelter this year (typically November to February). Decatur First member Stacy Waggoner is on the board for AHFEID and would be willing to help support this. We talked about some of the logistics for the Warming Shelter. The people occupying the space would be out of the building by 6:30am so there would not be overlap with the preschool. It would start at 6:30pm, and there would be meals provided (in the gym). We would

need to communicate with the basketball groups that use the gym and potentially for Youth during Wednesday nights. Kate suggested that Tom Merrihew would be willing to be the point person for the church. Engage is selecting a candidate this fall for the John Lewis Scholarship that we endowed (part of the African American Male Initiative at GA State).

- XI.** SPR – Kate (15 min) Michael made a motion to go into executive session, Josh seconded the motion, and we moved to executive session. See notes in separate document.
- XII.** Public Comment - (5 min)
- XIII.** Old or new business - (5 min)
- XIV.** Closing - (2 min) – Dalton closed the meeting in prayer at 5:15pm