

**Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
January 18, 2010**

Council Members in Attendance:

Dave Young	Leslie Myers	Joe Long	UMW- Susan Lears
Kevin Baker	Patti Whitten	Scott Frederick	Debbie Emerson
David Deans	Eileen Buzy	Kevin Hagberg	Bill Maynard
Debbie Goldberg			

Staff in Attendance: Lynn Steeley**Others in Attendance:** Bill Nullmeyer, Glen Williams, Alden and Marti English**Recording Secretary:** Damali Kajubi

1. **Opening and Prayer:** Dave Young, Council Chairman opened the meeting
2. **Welcome New Members:** Dave Young welcomed new members, Eileen Buzy, Joe Long and Dick Harris UMM.
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes:** Alden English moved the motion to approve the minutes. The Council unanimously approved the minutes.
4. **Pastor's Reports**
The council has made some organizational changes. Staff members are going report to Kevin Baker, Senior Pastor, David Deans, Associate Pastor, and Leslie Myers, Executive Pastor, who will present the staff reports to the council. Staff members who have specific issues can attend council meetings.
 - **Kevin Baker, Senior Pastor**
 - Jen Souter preached well at one of the Christmas services. 1,793 people attend the Christmas services.
 - A Planning and Strategy meeting for the executive Council is scheduled on February 22 at Leslie Myers' house to discuss goals, analyze how church ended in 2010, and discuss where God is leading the church in 2011
 - 2011 is going to be pivotal. Phase 1 of the Capital Campaign begins
 - **Dave Deans, Associate Pastor**
 - Dave will be preaching more regularly. He is gearing up for Lent and Easter
 - He plans to transition Katie Brock to take over Allison Sarracino's duties as Youth Pastor while Allison is on maternity leave.
 - Looking to hire choir director
 - The Washington-Baltimore UMC conference has a new initiative to invest in churches that want to attract young and unchurched people, do more community projects, and plant new churches. Need to consider how Oakdale Emory UMC can build a model for implementing these goals and come up with strategies for getting funding support

- Leslie Myers, Executive Pastor
 - Safe Sanctuaries is going well. Would like to produce an Oakdale specific video
 - SPRC staff manual is finished and will be shared with Staff in February.
 - Dennis Heinbuch is going to train people on how to use defibrillators
 - Holding discussions with Anne Jordan about getting a new company to host the church Web site
 - Senior Staff members are scheduled to go to Orlando for The Exponential Conference April 26-29; Will be useful to look at new initiatives going on in the church
 - Christian Education Staff is going The Orange Conference after Easter

5. New Business –

a – Council

i. Restroom Plumbing

Luis Franco, Building Engineer reports that they did a temporary fix by replacing the elbow. This fix will cost between \$500- \$600.

ii. Emory Hall Roof Tower

Andy Latos, a roofing contractor examined the roof. He will stop leaks temporarily until the weather improve. He estimates the repairs will cost \$3,000 to \$4, 000

iii. Conflicts with OEUMC interpretation of the Tax Law

Council voted to use \$40,000 to \$60, 000 from the Rainy Day fund to rectify conflicts arising out of OEUMC's interpretation of the Tax Law

b – Floor

- Scott Frederick is continuing efforts to educate the congregation on giving. He is considering a seminar on asset giving to support the capital campaign. He is having a conversation with a Finance group that wants to make a presentation to the congregation on the different aspects of giving. The seminar would cover topics on income and assets such as life insurance proceeds and stocks. The group does not have any Oakdale UMC members.
- Debbie Emerson felt that a member of the congregation should do the seminar. Dave Young advised Scott to send information on the group to the Council members for evaluation. He asked council members to try and find a member of the congregation who would be willing to conduct such a seminar.

6. Old Business –

a – Closure of the 2011 Budget – Scott Frederick – Chairman, Finance Committee

- Oakdale UMC has a history of increasing income. We had a revenue growth of 2% but our expenses were greater. OEUMC fell short of revenue for 2010.
- In an attempt to make sure that the church operates within its income level, the Finance committee has developed a budget for 2011 that is based on a revenue number that we can expect to reach in 2011
- A council member wanted to know if Clean Currents had any administrative costs. Clean Currents is the company that the church signed up for to reduce our electric bill. If the company has administrative costs, the cost may wipe out the

savings and end up costing the church more money. Scott clarified that Clean Currents is a non-profit organization that does not have administrative fees. The congregation's participation in the program helps the church to get money that we can use towards a green project such as landscaping, providing an additional avenue for reducing our expenses.

b – Final Report on Stewardship – Scott Frederick – Chairman, Finance Committee

- We received 295 returned pledge cards. This is 49 more than we received last year. 35% of the congregation responded.
- The total pledge amount was approximately \$1.2MM. Some pledged a percentage of income rather than a dollar amount, so we don't have an exact figure.
- We have a positive feeling for 2011. Worship attendance is going up

c – Capital Campaign – Kevin Baker – Senior Pastor

- We need a Capital Campaign overall chairman
- Rick McInturff is chairman of Congregational piece of the Capital Campaign
- Need a fundraiser to replace Mike Butler; Would like to find a fundraiser before the campaign kicks off
- Have formed a committee which is has not yet met
- Need a stewardship chair to sit on the Finance Committee
- Stewardship Committee is meeting next week

d – Annual Report – Anne Jordan – Director of Communications

- Staff members met the deadline for submitting their reports for the Annual report
- Annual report is a good tool for showing people information about the church
- Would like to get pictures of the new members of the Council (Eileen Buzy and Joe Long)
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e – Giving Definitions – Scott Frederick – Chairman, Finance Committee

- Scott compiled a list of the different ways that Oakdale Emory receives money. Sometimes donors put constraints on the money and we get donations that are earmarked for specific projects. Need to develop guidelines for donating money

Guidelines on Giving

- Scott would like the Council to consider using an approach that encourages the donors to give to three general areas
- Dave Deans supported having guidelines that encourage giving in three general areas. He suggested that donors who wanted to give outside of those areas should be advised to discuss their ideas with the Senior Pastor.
- Kevin felt that we do not want to refuse money and that we need to be very specific about what we can do; we should encourage people to tithe first. If they want to give beyond the tithe, they should put the money in the general fund
- Dave Young felt that we should not curtail people from giving, but at the same time, we want to avoid surprises. We do not want to accept money and end up not doing what the donor wants. We need guidelines on how we accept money.
- Kevin volunteered to work with Scott to come up with guidelines
- We also need to develop a system for following up with gifts and have a conversation about how we thank people for donations

Bank Accounts

- ASP, Joyful Noise, Mighty Oaks, United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Women have their own bank accounts.
- Technically, OEUMC is liable for what these entities do with the money. These organizations should be audited. Kevin will provide the guidelines on auditing.
- We should also get the Conferences guidelines on managing bank accounts

f – Discussion on Worship Times

- Need to discuss scenarios to alleviate congestion in Brigham Hall on Sunday Morning
- Dave Deans feels that fellowship is important but at the same time fellowship should not hinder the service.
- Marti feels that the coffee hour is important for connecting
- Need to consider that we are not going to have a building for 2 to 3 years and we are growing
- Alden English wants council to re-evaluate moving the 10:30 service to 11.00; The 10.30 service is growing and there were concerns that the change to 11 will disrupt this growth
- There was a suggestion that the band should play a little longer before the service begins and that we should to conduct a survey
- Dave Young suggested that Dave Deans should look at the alternatives and make recommendations

7. Committee Reports

- Scott Frederick answered questions on the finance report
- Patti Whiten expressed gratitude that Eileen Buzy, incoming SPRC Chairperson had made efforts to go and talk to the choir

8. Closing of the Meeting

- David Deans closed the Meeting with a prayer.