

**Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
October 19, 2010**

Council Members in Attendance:

Dave Young	Leslie Myers	Scott Frederick	Debbie Emerson
Ted Strahan	Patti Whitten	Mark Huff	ARK - Bill Maynard
Kevin Baker	Therese Walden	Kevin Hagberg	
David Deans	Matt Van Patten	UMW- Susan Lears	

Staff in Attendance:

Anne Jordan	Amy Cole	Luis Franco
Allison Sarracino	Jennifer Souter	

Others in Attendance:

Bill Nullmeyer	Eileen Buzy
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Recording Secretary: Damali Kajubi

1. **Opening:** Dave Young, Council Vice Chairman opened the meeting. David Deans offered opening prayer.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes:** Kevin Baker moved motion to accept the September meeting minutes. Scott Frederick seconded motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes
3. **Pastor's Reports**
 - **Alison Sarracino, Youth Pastor**
 - Is still working on developing a vision and strategic plan for the ministry
 - Is working on a plan for her maternity leave and is looking for volunteers to take some spots.
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 - **Jennifer Souter, Pastor of Children's Ministries,**
 - Celebrates Bible Sunday; It was nice to see parents handing Bibles to their children. Wants to keep the excitement going
 - Still working on vision for the ministry
 - **Amy Cole, Pastor of Adult Ministry**
 - Adult Ministry has adopted the mission "Connecting People, Building Faith, and Transforming Lives"
 - Is still working on vision for the ministry
 - Is still looking for people to sign up for the Advent Devotional
 - **Luis Franco, Building Engineer**
 - Reports that God is good and that he does not have any issues to report

- Anne Jordan, Director of Communications
 - Anne is concerned about the lack of prayer by the congregation for the church leadership. She also wants the council to have more prayer and praise before starting the meeting. She suggested having a time of prayer between 6 and 7 PM before the council meeting. Anne wants lay people to lead that service. Anne is asking the Council to consider her ideas. Dave Young, council chairman pointed out that he attends the Executive Council during that time frame. That is the only time he has to connect with other church leaders. Dave Deans suggested a 15 minute time of prayer before the Council meeting. Dave Young will consider the suggestion and make a decision at a later time.
 - Anne wants Council to consider if Oakdale Emory needs a media waiver release for videos containing footage of minors that Oakdale Emory posts on the Internet. Christy Pendleton and Jen Souter from the Children's Ministry are researching to find out if Oakdale needs to develop a new policy to handle this issue.
- Dave Deans, Associate Pastor
 - Is putting together teams to help with Worship Planning. Team includes Katie Brock, Scott Selby, and Don McIntyre
 - The seat arrangement in Brigham Hall has been changed to have the congregation face the stage. This has made room for more seats.
 - Oakdale is still getting a lot of new people. Dave encourages the council members to talk to new people and to introduce themselves
 - Dave has been visiting different groups during the worship service. Oakdale needs to make improvements in the sound quality. We have the skills to make it work. We need to think through what need to be done.
 - In the discipleship area, we need to go to the next step in assessing where we are as leaders
 - Young Adult Worship - Dave wants to set up groups of young adults that meet every week to worship together
- Kevin Baker, Senior Pastor
 - Reports that as he looks through the windshield, he sees that church going through a transition. He used the analogy of using a trapeze to swing from one bar to another. The church is in the stage of letting one bar go and of reaching out to the other bar. Because we are in the middle, there is a lot of nervousness and a great need for prayer
 - The Baltimore –Washington Conference wants Oakdale to continue working on a partnership with Korean pastors
- Leslie Myers, Executive Pastor
 - Wants Council committee members to discuss leadership covenant with their members
 - Is looking at organizing lay leadership. Leslie and Katie Young are going to be co-chairs
 - Staff members are getting ready for their reviews
 - Lynn Steeley accepted business manager position

4. 2011 Budget Process –**a - Capital Expense Budget – Scott Frederick**

- Oakdale has restricted fund that are just sitting there. Finance Committee has developed a Capital Expense Budget which identifies items that Oakdale can pay for using restricted funds instead of taking money from the operational budget. Capital Expense Budget for 2011 is \$43K. Although the money is identified as 2011, ministries can spend the money before 2011
- Kevin Hagberg wanted to know if we had long-term budget plans for the Capital fund and if we have plans for increasing the fund
- Dave Young suggested that we needed a conversation about how we receive funds. Memorial funds should become general capital funds
- Kevin Baker wanted Council to focus on the Brigham Hall projector.
- Council was reminded that Vern Schinski had developed a process for handling purchases of sizable amounts. Staff members need to submit justification for the purchase to the Council before Council meetings
- Therese Walden moved the motion to approve the Capital Expense Budget???? Kevin Hagberg seconded the motion. The Capital Expense Budget was approved.
- Approval of the budget does not commit us to spend the money within a given time

b - 2011 Budget Process – Dave Young

- Dave Young used the story of how God gave Egypt a 7-year period of plenty and used Joseph to store up food for the 7-year period of famine. Oakdale needs to cast a vision for how we are going to use the grain and how to handle the budget process. We could use three budget scenarios
- We could base the budget on the requested \$1.6 million. Our revenue has been flat and Based on the requested budget, we are going to spend \$40K from the reserve.
- We could use a budget based on the expected 2010 income of \$1,445, 150. This budget does not require us to go into our cash reserves
- We can also base the budget on \$1,405, 150 and use the pay back reserve approach
- The issue of stewardship is still a growing area for our congregation. Stewardship is part of spiritual development. We have a generous congregation but there is an issue of the congregation trusting the church with their money. Faith grows as we trust God with our money. Numbers are a discipleship issue.
- Scott advocated setting the budget at \$1,445,150. When we use an aspirational budget, we spend too much time trying to tighten it when we do not get an increase in giving. The \$1.45 million budget allows us to focus on making disciples.
- Dave Young also supported the conservative figure. Dave is tired of having the same discussion about the budget. Oakdale has a giving issue and we have not yet figured out how to fix it. In the past, we set an aspiration budget and prayed that

God would provide. We kept on having to scale back. Instead, Dave wants us to give thanks for what we have received and work with that.

- Therese Walden moved the motion to accept the \$1,445,150 revenue figure for the 2011 budget. Ted Strahan seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Dave Young asked the committee to stay within the ratio. Dave to email the ratio slide to committee members.
- Each area should write justifications for major expenses.

5. **Capital Campaign** –

- Capital Campaign starts in January 2011. The impact of the capital campaign on the operational budget is 10%.

6. **New Business** –

- No new business

7. **Old Business**

a – Annual Report

- Committee heads to contribute reports

b – Next Step Campaign

- Council should do assessments and ask people to share their assessments

c – Electricity Program Communication

- Scott Frederick has signed up Oakdale Emory with CleanCurrents, a firm that identifies opportunities for reducing the cost of electricity and increasing consumption of wind/solar generated electricity.
- Scott will be encouraging the congregation to take up the Green Neighborhood Challenge (GNEC). CleanCurrents rewards groups who sign up for this challenge and work to spread environmental conscientiousness in their communities. Based on the level of activity of the GNEC groups, CleanCurrents will give money back to the groups' environmental project of choice. For every household that signs up, Oakdale will get \$10 towards a green project.
- Dave Deans suggested advertising program using flyers

8. **Committee Reports**

- Building Committee celebrates having an architect

9. **Closing of the Meeting** Kevin Baker Closed the Meeting with a prayer.