

**Oakdale Emory United Methodist Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
September 21, 2010**

Council Members in Attendance:

Dave Young	Leslie Myers	Scott Frederick	UMW- Susan Lears
Ted Strahan	Patti Whitten	Mark Huff	Debbie Emerson
Kevin Baker	Therese Walden	Kevin Hagberg	Mary Jane Heinbuch
David Deans	Matt Van Patten	UMM- Alden English	Debbie Goldberg

Staff in Attendance:

Anne Jordan	Amy Cole	Luis Franco	Mary Johnson
Allison Sarracino	Jennifer Souter	Christy Pendelton	

Others in Attendance:

Bill Nullmeyer	Margo Stevenson	J. Richard Stevenson	Eileen Buzy
Robert Dodd			

Recording Secretary: Damali Kajubi

1. **Opening:** Dave Young, Council Vice Chairman opened the meeting. Bill Nullmeyer read devotion based on giving thanks. Anne Jordan and Kevin Baker led the opening prayer.
2. **Approval of July Minutes:** Dave asked the Council to start conducting votes by show of hands. Mary Jane Heinbuch asked for modifications to the July minutes to reflect that the Council voted to hire a business manager. Debbie Emerson moved to accept minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and the Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Dave Young expressed his disapproval of negative emails that the staff members have been sending to each other regarding the 2011 budget. He advocated that when one goes into ministry, one gives up his or her personal agenda and focuses on the common good. To illustrate his point, Dave Young used the story of the boy who gave up his seven loaves so that Jesus could feed 4,000 people. In a leadership role, staff members should focus on what is best for the church as a whole. There is a need to work on making decisions through discussion and on focusing on the common good. Church leaders should lead by example.

3. **Pastor's Reports**

- **Mary Johnson**, Interim Pastor of Outreach,
 - Reported that she is concerned about finding money in the budget for an International networking system for evangelism that costs \$360 a person. She wants to launch the program but is looking to the Council for guidance on how to do the launch. Dave Young asked if she wanted the Council to vote on the program. Scott Frederick, chairman of the Finance Committee, informed her that if the program falls under Christian Education, she should just submit an invoice.

- Anne Jordan, Director of Communications
 - Plans to continue using the FROG theme for the launching of the Stewardship campaign in November. She wants the Council to give her more guidance on what role they want her to play in the campaign. Scott Frederick responded that he will check with Mike Butler for specifics about the stewardship campaign. Scott also wants to contribute an article on stewardship for the Two42 magazine.
 - Anne also wanted to know if Dave Young, Council chairman plans on putting out an annual report. It was agreed that the church should have an annual report. Committee heads were asked to write and bring their drafts to the October meeting.
 - Anne would like the Council chairman to consider being video-taped doing 2-3 minute summaries of council meetings to be aired during worship services.
 - Anne is still considering redesigning the church Website and is asking for money to be included in the 2011 budget. The annual contract with Elexio for hosting the Website expires next May. Anne continues to research Web hosting companies that are popular with churches. She wants to have a new Web-hosting provider with the new Web design.
- Jennifer Souter, Pastor of Children's Ministries,
 - Celebrates having a great new teacher.
 - She is looking for one or two more assistants to volunteer.
 - She is praying about developing a strategy and vision for the ministry.
 - She invited council members to visit Sunday school events.
- Amy Cole, Pastor of Adult Ministry
 - Reports that 60 volunteers attended training. She is getting positive feedback and plans on doing one training a year
 - Adult Ministries has 14 small groups, 4 disciple classes, and 9 other studies
 - Child care is offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights for members of the congregation who are interested in participating in any ministry. Amy plans on getting small leaders to advertise availability of day care
 - Amy is working on developing a mission and vision for the ministry
 - She plans on meeting all small group leaders individually to develop individual relationships with them
 - Amy invited church leaders to write devotionals for the advent season and to join a small group
- Alison Sarracino, Youth Pastor
 - Is celebrating a great start for the Youth ministry
 - Is working on SMART goals and developing a mission, vision and strategic plan; She met student leaders to find out what they think about the mission and vision for the Youth program
 - Is praying about the "Life Hurts, God heals Program"
 - Is planning for maternity leave
 - Invites Council to attend Youth Service

Dave Deans, Assistant Pastor

- Suggests that the church should encourage youths who have gone through confirmation to sit on the church committees
 - Dave lead a prayer for Sharon Starling who is going to have surgery
 - Matt Van Patten wanted to know what it would take have a youth sit on the church council
 - Kevin Baker will lead initiative on planning a retreat for youth and college-age church members
- Leslie Myers, Executive Pastor
 - Reports that October Two42 magazine was focused on the Next-Step Campaign. She encouraged council members to read the guides by next meeting so that they could promote the campaign
 - Is working with Kevin Baker, Senior Pastor and Dave Deans, Associate Pastor to develop a mission and vision for 2012
 - A staff team has helped develop a leadership covenant with Amy Cole based on the fact that leaders do well when they know what is expected of them. She is asking the Council to approve the covenant
 - Dave Young suggested using the word “Goal” instead of “Covenant”. Kevin explained that we want to portray the concept that the church is going into a covenant with the leaders pretty much the same way God made covenants with his people
 - It was reported that Mary West was concerned that the church was going to ask the leaders to sign the covenant
 - Ted Strahan moved motion for the Council to accept covenant. Kevin Baker seconded the motion. The covenant was approved.

4. 2011 Budget Process –

- Scott Frederick provided a summary of losses and profits for the last five years
 - The budget as a management tool has not been very useful because it was so removed from reality. Going forward, church is going to do a budget based on revenue
 - Church has a YTD revenue shortfall of \$131, 000 versus plan
 - Scott identified programs that pay for themselves
 - Scott has a draft of the Capital Expense budget and has identified items that could be paid using restricted funds
 - The ARK pays a monthly fee to Oakdale Emory, but also makes other contributions. Council asked Jenifer Souter to clarify the amounts and the purpose of the payments.
 - Kevin Baker pointed out that the charge conference was scheduled for October 9 and SPRC needed to vote on the senior and assistant pastors’ salaries
 - Dave Young suggested presenting a statement that describes our budgeting process
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- Kevin needed clarification on why the Finance Committee is going to start counting pledges. Scott Frederick explained that he has seen a steady decline in the number of pledges over the last three years. He had received feedback that people in the congregation may have stopped submitting pledges because they felt that the church does not consider them important since the church does not open them. The Finance Committee was going to start opening the pledges to

demonstrate their importance. The committee is not basing the budget on the pledge total, but will take it into consideration as a factor moving forward.

- David Young moved the motion to accept the 2011 budget based on the 2010 income. Leslie Myers seconded the motion. Council voted to approve motion –

5. **Charge Conference** –

- The Charge Conference is on October 9, 2010 at 2PM.
- Bill Nullmeyer is going to speak on church vitality
- Conference reports were due.
- It was decided that the church was not going to mail post card reminders about the conference. Reminders were going to be sent out via email

6. **Capital Campaign:**

Kevin Baker reports that:

- Rick McIntuff has been trying to get the Capital Campaign going
- Mike Butler, a professional fundraiser for the Boy's Scouts will provide directorship.
- Have to set up an executive meeting in the next two weeks. Meeting to include Leslie Myers (Executive Pastor), Dave Young (Church Council Chairman), Bill Nullmeyer, Debbie Goldberg (Building Committee) and Jeff Zalewski (Building Committee)

7. **SPRC and Trustees Committee Leadership/Staffing**

- Eileen Buzy will step in a SPRC chairman
- There are three openings on the committee and Lay Leadership is working on filling.

8. **New Business** –

- No new business

9. **Old Business**

- Scott Frederick reported that the church had signed up with the CleanCurrents program. By going green, the church had trimmed its energy bill by 20%
- Scott would like to start initiative to get the congregation to sign up for the CleanCurrents program as a group. He asked the council for permission to educate the congregation on the CleanCurrents program; Council voted to approve request.

10. **Committee Reports**

- SPRC made an offer for the Business Manager position but the offer was not accepted
- Asked for permission to split the position of Choir Director into two positions – Choir Director and Worship Coordinator. Council voted to approve the split.
- BUILDING Committee – did not have any issues to raise
- TRUSTEE Committee – did not have any issues.
- Kevin – Church has gone through transitions and has done well

- Dave Deans – feels blessed to be at Oakdale- He likes to be a systems person and being part of the Next Step Program. He looks forward to using online tools such as Facebook and the Web to work with Young adults. Dave needs a representative to work on the Interfaith Service being planned by the B’nai Shalom. Dave wants to look at strategies for growing the congregation. One way would be to use big churches to resource other churches
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11. **Closing of the Meeting** Kevin Baker Closed the Meeting with a prayer