

**Minutes of the December 16, 2009, Church Council Meeting  
First United Methodist Church  
LaGrange, Georgia**

The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, LaGrange, Georgia, met on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 6:30PM in the Men's Bible Classroom.

Mrs. Esther Rainey, Council Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Rev. Kathy Lamon thanked everyone for their presence and announced that Dr. Harold Lawrence had left to go to South Carolina because his father had passed away.

The minutes from the October 27, 2009 Church Council meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None.

Mr. Tripp Penn, Council Vice-Chair, informed the Council that the weekend of January 22<sup>nd</sup> –the 24<sup>th</sup> would be an exciting weekend for our church family with Rev. Larry Homitsky joining us to get us started with Rethink Church. He explained that this Methodist Church initiative was one of how to perform radical hospitality, how to look at our community through a different set of lens, and how to better introduce our church and all that it does to the community. He encouraged everyone to participate in the weekend-long activities.

**Committee Reports:**

Staff Parish Relations: Chairperson Heather Graham reported that D.J. Thomas, a student at LaGrange College, had been hired as the Director of Music for Children and Youth. She stated that he would also start a music program for the 6 through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Mrs. Graham announced that Rev. Helen Henry was retiring at the end of the year and expressed her thanks to Rev. Henry for her many years of service to First Methodist Church.

Trustees: Chairperson Jamie Bradfield reported that a new policy had been put into place with regard to capital expenditures following the generous donation from the Mrs. Lillian Cobb's estate. The new policy would allow for only 33% of the funds on hand be spent in any given year by the Trustees; if the need were to arise requiring more than 33% of the capital reserve fund be spent in a single year then both the Finance Committee and Trustees would have to approve of the expenditure prior to spending the additional amount, and the Finance Committee would replenish spent funds as soon as funds were available. Mr. Bradfield informed Council members that the Trustees had been looking into the purchase of a handicap accessible van/bus and that they had located one that would fit our needs through the International Bus Group in Atlanta. He stated that the bus had 12 seats and 2 handicap spots for wheelchairs along with a chair lift. Mr. Bradfield stated that the Trustees and the Finance Committee had both approved the purchase and he made a motion that the Council approve the purchase of this handicap accessible bus for not more than \$60,000. The motion was seconded and approved.

Activities & Use: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson Gordon Smith stated that the committee had completed a lot of repairs and that the incoming chairperson, Scott Harris, had attended their last committee meeting in order to see

what the committee had been doing and what was still left to complete. A work list was submitted for the minute book.

Security: Reporting for Rick Cox, Trustee Chair Jamie Bradfield reported that as soon as funds were available the key less entry set ups would be placed on more doors around the church.

Finance: Chairperson Denise Wilson presented the financial statement and pointed out that pledges were behind but that expenses had been kept low keeping the revenue line more than the expense line. She stated that at year end we anticipated having around \$150,000 cash on hand. Mrs. Wilson also stated that the committee was in the process of determining what constitutes a capital expenditure now that the capital items are not included in the operating budget. She stated that the financial policies would then be updated to reflect the changes.

Mrs. Wilson presented the proposed budget for 2010 and thanked Jack Brown and the Stewardship Committee for their work on the campaign. Taking into account the pledged gifts of approximately \$990,000; an estimate of the non-pledged gifts received each year; and the estimated additional sources of income from programs such as the Summer Day Camp and Private Music Lessons; and recognition of the decrease in some of the Conference and local gifts, a budget of \$1,355,971.00 was submitted to the Council. Mrs. Wilson brought a motion from the Finance Committee to approve this budget with a stipulation that if needed the budget would be amended at the February 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. A copy of the budget will be included in the minute book.

Mrs. Wilson also stated that the Finance Committee had discussed the financing of the new proposed new handicap bus and had decided to call for a special offering at all 3 Christmas Eve services and at the combined serviced on December 27<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the Committee will approach the Memorial Foundation for possible funding sources and/or a matching gift in an effort to try to eliminate the need to go outside the church for financing.

Stewardship: Chairperson Jack Brown thanked the committee members for their participation in the campaign. He stated that pledges had been received for over \$990,000 and that with the customary non-pledged gifts that come in he felt confident the church would continue in its work at the level of quality seen in past years. He thanked Page Estes for the initial mailing and Lisa, Patti, and Dodie for their assistance.

Worship: No report.

Evangelism/Communication: Chairperson Mike Wilson stated that the committee was working on the publicity for the upcoming Rethink Church Weekend, January 22 – 24<sup>th</sup>.

Missions: No report.

Scouting Coordinator: Mr. Bernard Bledsoe reported that both the Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack were continuing to do well, and that the Boy Scouts were looking forward to the annual Freeze-o-ree. He expressed his thanks to the great leaders in the scouting program.

UMM: Mrs. Rainey read the written report submitted by President Fred Bodine stating that officers for the 2010 year had been elected and that there had been an increase in attendance at the breakfast in December which they hoped would continue.

Memorials: No report.

Policy: No report.

Kitchen: No report.

Music: No report.

Education: No report.

Bereavement: No report.

Long Range Planning: No report.

Security: No report.

Community Care: No report.

Memorial Foundation: No report.

**Singular Office Reports:**

Lay Leader: No report.

Membership: No report.

Adult Education: No report.

Treasurer: No report.

UMW: No report.

**Staff Reports:**

Associate Minister: Rev. Kathy Lamon stated that much had been accomplished with the new computer system and announced that very soon the entire church campus would be wireless. She expressed her gratitude to the staff and all the volunteers for their work in making all of the things happen at First Methodist.

**New Business:**

Council Chairperson Esther Rainey expressed her thanks and appreciation to all who had served on the Council for the past 2 years for the support she had received and the work that had been done. She stated that she looked forward to next year and Tripp's leadership of the Council. Mrs. Rainey reminded everyone of the Rethink Church Weekend on January 22-24<sup>th</sup> and of the next regular meeting of the Church Council on February 23, 2010.

Respectively submitted,  
Dodie Patterson, Recording Secretary