

St. Mark United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 30, 2022 **Time:** 12:30 pm **Location:** Room 111

The **October 2022** meeting of the **Church Council** was held in person in Room 111 on October 30, 2022. Amber Stewart, President of the Church Council, Presided.

The meeting was Called to Order at 12:32 by Amber Stewart.

Pastor Carolyn Stephens led the council in prayer.

Belva White moved to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes, Lily Berios seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Eric Steverson - Review of Open Action Items - none

Vision Statement Update – Mitch Foster not present; no report

REPORTS

Connectivity/Hospitality

- Review of Communications Report from Matthew (in Meeting Packet)
 - Discussion ensued
- Ideas of Youth being involved in running sound, livestream of services.
- Jess Cusick advised that Matthew had spoken to the Sunday School class about being trained to be involved in this ministry.

Solidarity

Jeff Collins Smythe reported

- Guns Violence Resolution - website
- Messages for the electronic message board on the church front lawn
- Pride Preparations
- Pauly Murray
- Reverend Tillman
- Legacy Museum – Montgomery Alabama
- Mary Abbott – Council to go ahead with typical outreach; backpacks, supper club, sponsoring and keeping scarf and blanket tree. Update in Remarks.

Endurability

- Review of PowerPoint in Meeting Packet
- For full discussion that ensued, refer to meeting transcript

Wiggins Task Force

- Had a great workday yesterday with the Georgia Tech team.
- We are still not ready for painting, and the painting is going to be done the first week in November.
- We need folks to come wash walls for Make Your Mark Day on the 5th to get it ready, because we cannot paint until those walls are washed. And if we lose the line time with the Painter, I don't know when it'll be.
- We have an electrician we've retained to come follow up on the inspection report that we got from Barbara Howard. And the electrician will be there on Tuesday to see what needs to be done.

Children's Report

- Review of Report included in Meeting Packet for October 30, 2022, meeting
- We are looking for younger kids to make sure we keep adding to our children's ministry.

Youth Ministry Report

- We do have upcoming next Sunday, we'll be at the Midtown Assistance Center to pack bags and to hear from Jenny Jobson, who is currently serving as the executive director of Mac, to just share with the young people about all of the wonderful things that Mac does.
- Lock In in December
- To young adults, Megan has done a phenomenal job, beginning after the very first time. Our young Adult Sunday School class, which has varying folks in it, between about six and eight people on a regular basis, which I would say for being six weeks in is good.
- January, we're hoping to do a collaborative MLK weekend retreat with several other Via local Atlantic UMCs who have youth groups to varying sizes
- Kenny open mic night – find a local comedy night, to support
- Some fun connection activities happening in the young adult ministry as well. Lots of other things that I've included in that report, but I'll let you all read that on your own time.

Outreach

- Frank Wren – breakfast club update – same as what Mary Abbott updated
- St. Mark is doing trinity table December 4. Jenna Mosely is leading those efforts for 300 meals.
- Youth and Foundations Class – Packing stockings In Remembrance of Sandra Kelly

Finance & Treasurer's Report

- I'll provide just some brief comments on the financial statements for September that we're looking at on this page. One for assets, the trustee account balances for the North Georgia foundation and for the Morgan Stanley account have been updated and reconciled as of the end of Q three. So those are the latest quarterly balances for those accounts and I think they reflect another 50,000 or so of drop in market value of the securities since Q two. And then, Eric, if you slide down just a little bit on that page, To the liabilities section. There's an item called excess cash received with a negative amount of \$53,031 that represents the year to date deficit that the church has generated. There you go. And that actually went down by \$45,000 in September. So that was a really good thing. And that went down for several reasons. The first and the biggest reason is we completed the third and final quarterly transfer of trust fund subsidies over to the operating budget that had been pre authorized under our 2022 budget.
- That quarterly amount was a little over \$39,000. And then the trustees transferred over some memorial fund income over to the budget to COVID costs of building repairs and maintenance and that was around 6500. And then finally the trustees also transferred over funds that will cover the cost of repairs to the chapel. And those monies came out of the Francis Windship Walters Fund and that was a little over \$14,000 that's now been recognized in revenue. I'll point out those repairs are still pending and we haven't paid out those expenses though. So we get some temporary relief with our deficit by that \$14,000 amount at least until November or December when the invoices are expected to be paid. If there are no questions on that, let's move on to the next page. With revenues and the total giving income, which is the sum of our pledge contribution on that top line and non pledged contribution on the second line, now stand at \$574,000. On a year to date basis, that's about 5000 higher than where we stood at the same point last year or 1% better. So that's a little bit encouraging. And then other revenues and Eric, if you slide down a little bit more there under that designated and trust fund section were much higher than usual for the reasons that I just mentioned regarding the shrinkage in the year to date deficit.
- So total revenue from all sources for the month came in at \$127,000 and some change is shown at the bottom of the page. If there are no questions on that, let's move on to expenses on the third page. First thing I'll point out is that in September we received \$5,500 in member contributions specifically
- There you go. That ran very high at 24% over the I'm sorry, very high in September at \$714. And that was almost a third of our entire annual budget for that amount on a year to date basis. We're also running very high at 24% over the total annual budget amount. We still have three months to go. Those of us on the Finance Committee had a discussion with Dina and Carolyn about that. And I understand from Dena the part of it relates to some post pandemic restocking and supplies such as Pew attendance pads. And it also includes higher paper costs, part of which relates to the new, larger service bulletins we're using in our Finance Committee discussions. Carolyn provided a very thoughtful reason on why that's a good investment for us to make, and I encourage any of you with concerns about that to reach out to her and let us move on now, just in the

interest of time. So then, total church expenses shown at the bottom of the fourth page. So I think that would be bottom of that page came in at 82,000 and some change for the month of September. And on a year to date basis, we spent 875,000 or so, which is about 50,000 more than the same point last year, and which works out to 6% more than September 2021 year to date expenses.

MOTION: Joel Black made a motion to accept the FIVE Changes to the Budget
Belva White seconded – passed unanimously

- Review Meeting Packet for October 30, 2022 for 5 budget amendments

MOTION – Paint Color for Children’s Ministry – Passed unanimously

MOTION: Is there any objective to moving forward with this space rental if the Trustees gain comfort with the open questions above? If no concerns, it is likely we will move forward with this rental. – Passed unanimously. Bozzuto

MOTION: Request: Approval from the Church Council for the Endurability Committee to proceed on this request: Passed unanimously

Trustees

- Request for Approval
- Endurability believes using their attorney (per following email copy) to draft the document is best.

Moved to Executive Session at 2:44pm.