

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
March 29, 2016

**Attendance:** Debra Carter, Ron Dunn, Don Field, Sunny Ahn, Paul Kuelz, Jim McKnight, Mark Miller, Terry Sherman, Brad Tolstedt, Luke Ham, JoAnn Van Bezey, Carol Warnock, Fred Toney

**Absent:** Lea Hickman, Maggie Stienstra, Bill Rust, Harry Knapp

**Guests:** Laurie Stocking, Jim Burk, Quentin Alexander, Kathleen Saghafi

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Terry Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pastor Ron Dunn offered a prayer to open the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chair announced that, if there were no objections, the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting of the Administrative Board, the predecessor to the Church Council, would be adopted as written. There were no objections.

**WELCOMING OF NEW APPOINTMENTS**

The Chair welcomed all members to the Church Council, which became effective March 1, 2016 as successor to the Administrative Board. An updated organization chart with names filled in is included as part of the minutes.

**2016 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Finance Committee Chair Brad Tolstedt presented the 2016 Budget as recently approved by the Finance Committee. Total income is projected to be 1,109,450, an increase of \$11,687 over the 2015 budget, with total expenses projected to be \$1,130,577, an increase of \$11,570 over 2015, leaving a budget deficit of \$21,127. The 2016 Budget and Brad's PowerPoint presentation are included as part of the minutes.

**MOTION**

It was moved by Brad Tolstedt to accept the 2016 Budget as presented, seconded by Don Field, and after discussion, approved unanimously.

**ARC UPDATE**

Quentin Alexander, member of the Athletic and Recreational Center (ARC) Building Committee, provided a report of the construction progress, underway now for several weeks. Quentin's report is included as part of the minutes.

**LEADERSHIP MEETING UPDATE**

Church Council members and Strategic Initiative leaders recently met with Greg Bergquist, the California-Nevada Annual Conference Superintendent for Leadership Development, for a one-and-a-half-day retreat at San Damiano Retreat Center. The primary purpose of the retreat was to bring together the members of the new Church Council and the leaders of the Strategic Initiatives to create a leadership team that will be responsible, among other things, to lead the implementation of the recently adopted Strategic Initiatives.

Jim McKnight, Council Vice-Chair and Strategic Development and Implementation Chair, reported on a follow up meeting held March 15 to further discuss collaboration

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between Practice Groups and Strategic Initiative teams. Council members will soon receive draft “job” descriptions for their respective input/feedback.

**TRUSTEES UPDATE**

Chair Mark Miller reported that installation of the courtyard awning, delayed due to weather conditions, should soon be completed. He also reported that the parking lot will be repaved His written report is included d as part of the minutes.

**MISSIONS UPDATE**

Risk Taking Missions and Service Chair Paul Kuelz reported on the refugee resettlement project a number of SRVUMC members have recently been learning about. The churches in our Circuit – Lynnwood, Asbury, Castro Valley, Grace and SRVUMC – have been exploring the possibility of providing assistance to a refugee family or families that may settle in our area. SRVUMC member Liz Bayat has agreed to lead a 15-member Circuit task force. Missions is working toward an effort to communicate and inform our congregation about the refugee resettlement issue. Pastor Ron plans to interview David Bayat, a native of Afghanistan who came to the US many years ago as a refugee when Afghanistan was under Soviet occupation, during worship services on April 10. Great Decisions will discuss the refugee situation on April 17.

The Church Council affirmed the effort to further explore the refugee resettlement project and report back in due course.

**PASTORS’ MOMENTS**

Pastor Ron Dunn connected the refugee project to the story of resurrection - chance to begin a new life.

Pastor Sunny, recently back from the Holy Land leading a group of 12 members from SRVUMC and one from Lynwood on a two-week trip, reported that Dave Coombs will facilitate a session on the Holy Land at 9:00 am on Sunday, April 3, and that a presentation about the trip will be made at worship on April 17.

Pastor Luke reported that the Easter sunrise service was magnificent. Intergenerational parents attended along with the youth. Pastor Luke also reported that he recently participated in the “Every 15 Minutes” at Monte Vista HS. The program deals with drunk driving and is educates youth on the dangers of drinking and driving. Luke will also spend two days on campus at San Ramon Valley HS; 40 of the “dead” (actors) will be housed at SRVUMC in preparation for the program.

**CHILDCARE PROGRAM**

Pastor Ron related that SRVUMC’s childcare program needs greater financial support if we want to involve families in the life of the Church, as called for in our Strategic Initiatives. Our 2016 budget provides only \$5,000 for childcare; in comparison, Santa Rosa UMC’s budget several years ago provided \$25,000. Questions - Should we consider subsidized child care, where the Church pays a portion and the parents pay a portion? Where can funds be found? Fundraisers? Are we willing to invest in young families? This topic will be considered at the next Council meeting.

**PRESCHOOL UPDATE**

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Winnie Stribling, Preschool Commission Chair, reported in a written report that State Child Care Licensing approved increasing the capacity of the Preschool from 46 to 50 children on campus, effectively immediately. Her report is included.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 7:00 pm, location

**CLOSE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned a little after 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Sherman  
Acting Secretary