

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
April 19, 2016

**Attendance:** Luke Ham, Lea Hickman, Jim McKnight, Mark Miller, Terry Sherman, Maggie Stienstra, Brad Tolstedt, Fred Toney, Joanne Van Bezey, Carol Warnock

**Absent:** Sunny Ahn, Debra Carter, Ron Dunn, Don Field, Harry Knapp, Paul Kuelz, Bill Rust,

**Guests:** Jim Burk, Carole Johnson, Brenda Domergue, Larry Stone

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Terry Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:02pm in the Conference Room.

**OPENING DEVOTION/PRAYER**

Chair Terry Sherman offered a prayer to open the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION

It was moved that the Church Council March 29, 2016 minutes be amended to include Larry Stone in attendance. The amended minutes were approved by consensus.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES – ARC UPDATE**

The Church Council moved to the Sanctuary for a power point presentation on the projected “up front or start up” costs needed to get the ARC operating in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017. Jim Burk led the presentation and thanked Linda Green for her contribution to putting together the presentation and his fellow committee members who worked very diligently to put together this thoughtful and comprehensive list of start up needs and an ARC pro forma annual budget for 2017. The ARC presentation is included as part of the minutes.

The purpose of this presentation was to present to the Council a request for up front operating costs not to exceed \$28,000. It was further disclosed that this money would constitute a no interest loan from the general church (Board of Trustees) and be repaid by the ARC as soon as economically feasible.

**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Chair Terry Sherman reported that there is \$28,271 from last year’s unrestricted funds (Endowment Committee) to be spent this year. The ARC is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. The possibility of distributing the unrestricted funds to set up a Church Council Reserve Fund and fund the ARC up front costs (via Board of Trustees) was discussed. BOT Chair Mark Miller and Finance Chair Brad Tolstedt will address this issue and come back with a proposal to be considered at the next Council meeting in May.

**CHURCH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE/ORGANIZATION**

Chair Terry Sherman presented the SRVUMC Church Council Responsibilities and Practices and Procedures and opened them up for discussion. This document is included as part of the minutes. It was agreed to amend the quorum required at a Council meeting be changed from “25%” to “over 50%” of the voting members or their proxies. Also brought up for discussion was the need to further define the actions requiring Church Council approval of expenditures above a certain level. It was agreed that “above a “certain” level needs to be determined to be an exact amount. BOT Chair Mark Miller and Vice Chair Jim McKnight will confer and make a recommendation. The Church Council Responsibilities and amended Practices and Procedures were approved by consensus, acknowledging that it is a document that will be continually reviewed.

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Chair Terry Sherman presented the Church Council Objectives for 2016. This document is included as part of the minutes. Much discussion ensued about Objective #8 regarding the plan to increase church membership. It was agreed that Chair Terry Sherman would confer with Kathleen Saghafi and Shannon Dever to devise a way to accurately gather information on congregational participation not only on Sundays but throughout the week to provide meaningful data to assist in growing and reflecting actual membership.

**FINANCE UPDATE**

Chair Brad Tolstedt reported that the financials reports for March (1<sup>st</sup> quarter) were favorable to plan in giving and expense. He also reported that Preschool proceeds were bumped from \$15,000 to \$20,000, which allows the childcare program budget, which has \$5,000 to be improved to \$10,000.

Brad also reported that Luke Ham's health care estimate was over estimated by \$4,500. This reduces the projected deficit to be reduced from \$21,127 to \$16,627.

**MISSIONS UPDATE**

In Chair Paul Kuelz's absence, Liz Bayat reported via email that a family of 3 from Yemen is arriving on May 9 in Oakland, a mother and 2 boys aged 9 and 12. With assistance from Catholic Charities, Lynnewood, Asbury and SRVUMC, this family is on track to be integrated into the community.

**LAY LEADER MOMENTS**

Co-Lay Leader Lea Hickman reported that she noticed that people gather around the new awnings in the courtyard and that a real energy was realized. Chair Terry Sherman thanked Bill and Nancy Sabin for their financial support of this project. She also acknowledged as positive impact on the campus of the construction activity of the ARC on the campus. And, in the sanctuary, she noticed a positive and engaged audience participation in the refugee interview.

**PASTORS' MOMENTS**

Pastor Luke Ham is involved in the "Every 15 Minutes" program at San Ramon Valley High tomorrow. He also reported that Confirmation Sunday is May 15 and that the pastors have been more deeply involved than in the past and that this has been a big plus for everyone.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, May 17, 7pm.

**CLOSE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Pastor Luke Ham concluded the meeting with prayer and Chair Terry Sherman adjourned the meeting at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Stienstra  
Church Council Secretary