

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
September 20, 2016

**Attendance:** Debra Carter, Ron Dunn, Don Field, Nancy Garnick, Luke Ham, Harry Knapp, Paul Kuelz, Jim McKnight, Mark Miller, Bill Rust, Terry Sherman, Fred Toney, Joanne Van Bezey

**Absent:** Lea Hickman, Brad Tolstedt, Carol Warnock

**Guests:** Tawfick Fayeb, Linda Green, Stephanie Ham, Carole Johnson, Dave McWilliams, Laura Sanchez, Fred Schreiber

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CHURCH SOFTWARE**

Director of Communication Linda Green reported on the status of the Technology Strategic Objective to replace the church software. Her group looked at 26 possible programs to use, and narrowed it down to 4 that on first review met all the criteria (it must be Web based, have a good group management program, have a good calendaring program, and have integrated financial tracking). They held four real time sessions with the pastor and staff to introduce the one program that actually met all the criteria, ShelbyNext. They are finishing the paperwork now and will present the final proposal to the Finance Committee next Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. After approval by the Finance Committee, the proposal will then come to the Church Council for final approval. They will wait until the first of the year to implement it so it coordinates with our financial year, since all the financial information needs to be entered from scratch.

**OPENING DEVOTION/PRAYER**

Intentional Faith Development Leader Bill Rust, in lieu of a prayer, showed the closing video from the Disciple 1 class to open the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION

It was moved that the Church Council August 16, 2016 minutes be approved as presented. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**LAY LEADERS' REFLECTIONS**

Lay Leader Debra Carter reported that she and Lea Hickman are exploring the issue of diversity, starting in our church community and progressing later to church leadership. We are currently at the beginning of the conversation. Guest Fred Schreiber, HR executive consultant with many years' experience and who attends our church on occasion, has offered to help facilitate this discussion. It will include looking at what we can do to include others. Benefits could include adding richness of views and providing a competitive advantage to the church for attracting new members. Debra is willing to head up a task force including Council members and others and she welcomes volunteers. Fred will assist the group. The Council gave their blessing to Debra to proceed.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Terry reported for Finance Chair Brad Tolstedt that income and expenses continue to be favorable to plan, as shown in the financial report through August which is included as part of these minutes. It is anticipated that we can close the year with a surplus to planned levels.

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MOTION

It was moved that the Council approve the transfer of available monies in the five proposed funds as presented to the Church Council Reserve Fund.

Moved: Brad Tolstedt; Seconded: Mark Miller; Motion passed.

After much discussion, it was agreed this transfer is appropriate and the possibility of similar transfers should be reviewed periodically to determine whether unused categorized funds can be freed up for use.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Pau Kuelz, Risk Taking Mission & Service Practices Group Chair, gave an update on the refugee family from Yemen. They have moved to Foster City and are receiving help from some families in the local Methodist Church congregation. Additionally, people from our refugee task force are taking turns visiting and assisting. The task force has agreed to continue to use the remaining \$5,000 in our fund to continue to support Abeer. She has not yet found employment.

Paul reported that Mission Sunday was held September 18 with tremendous success. We had 84 volunteers pack over 15,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now! and 20 volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity Playhouse build. The "Moment for Mission" on September 25 will focus on these activities.

Paul reported that the Monument Crisis Center needs volunteers to pack food. They have the money and the food, they just need helpers. His committee will be working with them to see if we can plan a packing activity together.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**

Board of Trustees Chair Mark Miller reported that the cross and mural have been installed in the Courtyard and the landscaping of the Meditation Garden is moving along. The Chancel update is completed and the movable lecterns have been added. These changes will allow for more space on the Chancel during services. Mark reported that the Board of Trustees has voted to replace the four large cement block sections of the sanctuary wall facing the Meditation Garden with glass below the stained glass windows. This will allow for more natural light, allow views of the Meditation Garden, and give an updated look to the sanctuary. A donor has offered to pay for this project.

MOTION

It was moved that the Council approve the replacement of the sanctuary wall facing the Meditation Garden with glass panels.

Moved: Mark Miller; Seconded: Fred Toney; Motion passed.

After much discussion it was agreed that the congregation needs to be informed of major projects such as this ahead of time and given the opportunity for feedback. Mark agreed to have a drawing prepared to display in the Narthex, and to inform the congregation about this project and about other proposed projects planned for the future. It is to be made clear that this project is funded by a donor.

Mark reported that the solar system for the ARC will be purchased at the original \$45,000 cost because the proposed PPA agreement with Collective Sun for a larger system did not work out due to contract issues. Mark reported that the ARC is still behind schedule. The work to convert Lamm Hall to the Tot Spot is in progress but has had several delays. The renter groups that

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have to be moved out of Lamm Hall need storage space, which Luke and Tawfick are clearing space for in the different rooms to be rented to them. Additionally, Boyd is not currently available to do the work needed on Lamm Hall. The Tot Spot should be ready by the end of October.

Mark reported that a baby grand piano has been donated to the church and Nadia prefers it to the one currently in Wesley Center, so the one in Wesley now needs a new home. The Board of Trustees will be discussing this.

**CHILDCARE UPDATE**

Children's Ministries Director Stephanie Hamm reported that the Iron Horse Mothers' Club is interested in renting space in the new Tot Spot for some of their own mother/child activities when the weather is bad.

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Strategic development Chair Jim McKnight reported he has been meeting with the program chair people for the Strategic Project. He has been delayed a bit with the Connect and Belong group because Devon will no longer be the leader. Jim and Terry will meet with all program chair people (Practice Groups) before the next Church Council meeting to discuss their direction forward.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair Don Field introduced new Director of Youth Tawfick Fayed. Don reported that the staff luncheon on August 30 was a big success and he thanked the volunteers for all their work in putting it on.

**PASTORS' MOMENTS**

Pastor Ron Dunn reported that the new sermon series is "Once and Future Church" about navigating change. There are many real challenges for the future, which he and Luke will address.

Pastor Luke Ham reported that he is enjoying his new role. He liked working with Ron on the summer sermon series. He is working with existing small groups and helping set up some new ones. The Disciple 2 Group he is leading on Thursday afternoons still has openings and has grown from last year from 8 to 12 participants.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Peace and Justice Committee member Laura Sanchez distributed fliers with upcoming activities. She invited everyone to attend the presentation next Sunday, September 25, regarding the ballot propositions in the upcoming election, led by the League of Women Voters.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, October 18, 7pm, Fireside Room. A Charge Conference will be held Tuesday, November 15, 7:30pm in the Fireside Room with Pastor Kim Reisdorf as the presiding elder, preceded by the November Church Council meeting.

**CLOSE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Council Chair Terry Sherman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Garnick  
Church Council Secretary Pro Tem

**Actionable Items**

Jim McKnight, Strategic Development Chair, will report back to the Council with a proposal to define the decision-making process in regard to use of space on the campus.

Linda Green, Director of Communications, will come back to the Council in October with a recommendation to purchase a new church software program.

Debra Carter, Lay Leader, will set up a task force exploring the issue of diversity.

Mark Miller, Board of Trustees Chair, will prepare a drawing of the proposed sanctuary modifications to display in the Narthex and inform the congregation about this and other planned upcoming major campus modifications.