

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
December 12, 2016

**Attendance:** Debra Carter, Ron Dunn, Don Field, Nancy Garnick, Luke Ham, Lea Hickman, Jim McKnight, Mark Miller, Bill Rust, Terry Sherman, Fred Toney

**Absent:** Harry Knapp, Paul Kuelz, Brad Tolstedt, Joanne Van Bezey, Carol Warnock

**Guests:** Ann Burk, Jim Burk, John Grenn, Carole Johnson, Dave McWilliams, Laura Sanchez

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Terry Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:04pm in the Fireside Room.

**OPENING DEVOTION/PRAYER**

Intentional Faith Development Leader Bill Rust offered a devotion to open the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION

It was moved that the Church Council November 8, 2016 minutes be approved as presented. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**DIVERSITY UPDATE**

Lay Leader Debra Carter reported that Greg Berkquist, Conference Superintendent for Leadership Development, who was going to lead diversity training, has been reassigned and is moving to Nashville. David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion, will now lead the training starting in February.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Fred Toney reported that as of 4:00 last Friday, we had received pledges of \$829,602 toward our proposed budget of \$1,010,000. The committee has e-mailed those people who pledged last year but haven't so far this year, and has made phone calls to some of them and to identified givers. Fred is confident that the campaign will turn out well.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Chair Terry Sherman reported for Finance Chair Brad Tolstedt that there is nothing new beyond the report that was e-mailed out prior to this meeting. They are waiting for the results of the stewardship campaign to finalize the budget. The December Finance Committee meeting is being cancelled. The recommended budget will go to the Finance Committee in January, then to the Church Council at its January 17 meeting to approve.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**

Board of Trustees Chair Mark Miller reported that they are starting to sheetrock in the ARC. The electrical wiring is all complete. The Trustees have done all they are responsible for as far as the Tot Spot. Mark recommended capturing usage data once it is up and running so determine how effectively and for what purposes it is being utilized. The new church software will affect how children are signed in and signed out, and the Safe Sanctuary Policy will be reviewed by the SPRC to include information regarding procedures for checking in and out.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair Don Field reported that the staff were given gift-wrapped homemade loaves of cranberry bread as a gesture of support for their work. Performance reviews are now being done and he requested time to meet with Ron and Luke this week. Don recommended a wonderful guest preacher he heard speak at his son's church in Folsom on the subject of diversity.

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
December 12, 2016

**PASTORS' MOMENTS**

Pastor Ron Dunn reported on 8 items:

1. The recreational ministry team has had two meetings and will be meeting close to weekly as the opening of the ARC nears, to work on curriculum that they are creating.
2. Ron plans to spend a week in Haiti on mission work with Warren in February. There will be a special Lenten focus in our church to raise \$10,000 for a solar oven for Haiti.
3. The staff has been in the process of selecting goals for the new year that are in line with the Strategic Plan.
4. Ron appreciated Fred Toney's witness last Sunday regarding the Stewardship Campaign and it hoping the Campaign will be successful.
5. The ARC dedication committee is trying to establish a date for the dedication ceremony now because invitations need to be sent out soon for dignitaries. They are looking at June 4.
6. Ron met our new Bishop Minerva Carcano at a circuit meeting recently and was completely pleased and pleasantly surprised that she wanted to hear the stories of the clergy, rather than pushing an agenda of her own.
7. The renderings for the proposed new south wall in the sanctuary are completed and will be presented to the congregation in early January, with construction starting one month later.
8. Ron urged everyone to attend the MLK service at Wesley Center at 4:00 on January 16. The keynote speaker will be our District Superintendent, Staci Current.

Pastor Luke Hamm reported that he appreciates the work of Ron and other on the worship committee for selecting the sermon series topics. He reported that the Living Nativity, for various reasons, will be held only one night this year, Sunday December 18. Tawfick is in charge. Luke will be playing Santa at the Men's Breakfast this year on Saturday, December 17. Luke and Stephanie attended the preschool Christmas concert tonight and were impressed by the number of young families present. There is huge potential with this group and he will be keeping an eye on this connection.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Nominations and Leadership Development Chair Fred Toney reported that all filled positions were approved and all chairs got letters asking them to welcome new members and thank those going off their committees. His committee has no more meetings until March, when they will check back with committee chairs to see how things are going.
2. Chair Terry Sherman thanked and acknowledged those going off the Church Council: Nancy Garnick, Brad Tolstedt, Dave McWilliams, Carole and Don Johnson, and Winnie Stribling, and welcomed their replacements: John Green, Rhonda Poole, Dick Lam, Kathleen Saghafi, and Anne Kuelz, respectively.
3. Strategic Development Chair Jim McKnight reported that the proposed process for approval and funding of Strategic Plan projects was formally written up and e-mailed to the Council for comment. He received no comments.

**MOTION**

It was moved to adopt the proposed Guidelines for Approval and Funding Projects dated 11/29/16. Moved: Jim McKnight; seconded; Debra Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim reported that the "Connect and Belong" group has been on hold but will start

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
December 12, 2016

meeting again this Sunday. Devon Drake is temporarily in charge and a succession plan is in place. Jim has held meetings with the practice groups and other strategic groups. He met with Carol Warnock and has a good feeling about the Radical Hospitality Group. With Lea Hickman's help, we are in the process of looking at how we are doing with implementing the Strategic Plan and how to go forward.

4. Peace and Justice committee member Laura Sanchez reported on an additional item to her e-mailed report: A housing trust fund is being set up to provide help for people getting into housing with their first month's rent, credit check, etc. and to help landlords who are willing to risk renting to low income residents. Laura is working to raise money for this fund, including an article in the January Messenger. She will talk with Paul Kuelz and Rhonda Poole about how to arrange for donations through the church and will discuss with Ron how to best present the information to the church members.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room.

**CLOSE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Pastor Luke Ham closed the meeting with a prayer. Chair Terry Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Garnick  
Church Council Secretary Pro Tem

**Actionable Items**

None