

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church
Church Council Minutes
February 21, 2017

Attendance: Debra Carter, Ron Dunn, Brenda Domergue as proxy for Don Field, John Green, Luke Ham, Lea Hickman, Harry Knapp, Paul Kuelz, Jim McKnight, Mark Miller, Rhonda Poole, Laura Sanchez as proxy for Bill Rust, Terry Sherman, Brad Tolstedt (outgoing chair of the Finance Committee), Fred Toney.

Absent: Don Field, Bill Rust, Joanne Van Bezey, Carol Warnock.

Guests: Nancy Alexander, Jim Burk, Rich Johannessen, Joyce Kayser, Dave McWilliams, Dean McWilliams, Kathleen Saghafi, Laurie Stocking.

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING DEVOTION/PRAYER

Pastor Ron Dunn offered a prayer to open the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

It was moved that the Church Council January 17, 2017 minutes be approved as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved.

DIVERSITY UPDATE

Lay Leaders Debra Carter and Lea Hickman reported the first Diversity Task Force meeting was held February 11. The Task Force determined: Will add two youth members to represent the Youth Programs; will expand "Equity" to more than gender; will develop means to measure objectives; will collaborate with Peace and Justice Committee. David Vasquez-Levy is not available for training; Lea and Debra are interviewing candidates to replace Vasquez-Levy.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Finance Committee Chair, Rhonda Poole, in conjunction with the Proposed 2017 Budget, reported total pledges received of \$942,038.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

2016 Year-End Overview for General Fund. Finance Committee Chair, Rhonda Poole, presented the report (see the attached report for details).

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total Income	\$1,123,732	\$1,114,950
Total Expenses	\$1,079,644	\$1,129,945
Net Position	\$ 44,088	\$ (14,995)

2017 Budget. Rhonda Poole presented the Proposed 2017 Budget (see the attachment for details).

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total Income	\$1,113,450	\$1,145,200
Total Expenses	\$1,129,122	\$1,154,938
Net Position	\$ (15,672)	\$ (9,738)

Following action was taken to reduce the Preliminary 2017 Budget deficit from \$44,738 to a deficit of \$9,738: transfer of \$35,000 from the Church Council Reserve Fund (CCRF), which includes \$30,000 from the annual Endowment Fund distribution plus \$5,000 from CCRF balances.

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MOTION

Fred Toney made a motion to approve the Proposed 2017 Budget as presented. Mark Miller 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Because staffing costs make up approximately 70% of the budget, it was recommended that SPRC assess the Church's current staffing structure to determine its efficiency and effectiveness.

MOTION

Jim McKnight moved that the Staff Parish Relations Committee perform an assessment of SRVUMC's current staffing structure to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the structure by July 1, 2017. Harry Knapp 2nd. The motion was unanimously approved.

Financial data for January and February 2017 will be presented to the Church Council in March.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Brenda Domergue, reported SPRC has met with all church staff to identify individual staff goals.
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CHURCH COUNCIL 2017 COUNCIL OBJECTIVES (Attached)

Strategic Development Chair, Jim McKnight, presented the 2017 Church Council Objectives. It is a Living Document. Responsibility is assigned for each of the 13 objectives.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT (Attached)

Board of Trustees Chair, Mark Miller, reported on these items:

1. Work to begin on sanctuary windows to garden March 6.
2. Railing(s) to be installed for stairs to chancel area.
3. Improved security of Pre-School area completed with fence and gate modifications.
4. Damaged projection screen in Wesley Center replaced
5. Electricity to ARC installed February 22.
6. On the impact to creek from our heavy rainfall. Potential for debris and soil build-up in tunnels, and erosion along creek. One neighbor has contacted Mark.

RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE UPDATE

Risk Taking Mission and Service Chair, Paul Kuelz, reported the family of refugees from Afghanistan moved to Antioch, in their desired community and near their Afghani contact family. SRVUMC continues as a participant in supporting the family. Announcements and information will continue to inform the congregation of this service opportunity, including supplies and services needed to support the family. A date is to be determined for a Meet and Greet with the family at our Church.

During this year's Lenten period (March 1 to April 16) we will be focusing on the Thomas Food Project, and in particular the solar oven program. Our goal: \$15K, the cost of one solar oven to greatly increase the number of meals.

TOT SPOT POLICIES

Ron Dunn reported Procedural Policy Guidelines will be developed by a Task Force of Jean Desmond, Don Field, Terry Sherman, and Sarah Rossini.

PASTORS' MOMENTS

Pastor Ron Dunn reported on these items:

1. Ron leaves Sunday for a week in Haiti on mission work with Warren McGuffin (Feb 28-Mar 6).

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2. Ash Wednesday is March 1. The Lenten sermon series for Ron and Luke will correspond with the several Lenten study groups and the study guide, "Gifts of the Dark Wood," by Eric Elnes. A study guide has been prepared for individuals/groups.
3. **Worth a repeat from last month's council meeting:** With the many new programs and facilities, along with ordinary work routines and assignments, a feeling of tension and stress is being felt within the staff and others heavily involved in our evolution. We should be aware of this condition, and try to be more grateful, more patient, and more understanding of staff and others in our church family. (Added by Secretary)

Pastor Luke Ham reported on these items:

1. Sermon series, "God in the Movies," wrapped up. Ron and Luke received great feedback on the use of film clips in their sermons.
2. Completed the small group Lenten study guide. Ten small groups have been formed for Lenten study. Luke and Kathleen Saghafi have reached out and invited newer church members/visitors to join a study group.
3. Luke attended the Youth Disneyland trip with 45 youth, 10 adults, and 2 children. Luke praised our Youth Director, Tawfick Fayed, for his organizing and leadership abilities. Luke was impressed with the strong connection the youth and Tawfick have made.
4. SRVUMC will host an interfaith youth gathering in April. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim students will be in attendance.

PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY REGARDING SERVING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON SRVUMC PREMISES (Attached)

Board of Trustees Chair, Mark Miller, introduced the proposed survey. Much discussion followed regarding pros and cons, potential for conflicting attitude of congregants if survey was initiated throughout our congregation.

MOTION.

Mark Miller moved to approve the sending of the survey to congregation members. Debra Carter 2nd. The motion passed (Yea: 9, Nay 2, Pastors do not vote), with the stipulation the survey will have a cover letter that describes the survey. Prior to sending to the congregation, each voting member of the church council will review the cover and survey to ensure each Council member's concerns are addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Attached)

1. Endowment Committee. During the committee meeting, February 15, 2017, \$50,000 was approved for distribution to church components. Distribution will be announced Sunday, February 26 during services. Prior to this distribution, the Endowment Fund investment totaled \$1,106,760. Contributions to the fund in 2016 were \$10,718 from 77 donors.
2. Peace and Justice Committee Chair, Laura Sanchez, reported the committee will sponsor three Adult Classes on the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church on Sundays following Easter, April 23, 30, and May 7. The Social Principles handbook is available for all interested persons.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kathleen Saghafi reported Sunday Coffee Hospitality volunteers have diminished to a degree she will approach various small groups, committees, to serve in the hospitality service. Estimate a group/committee will be asked to serve 3-4 times a year.

Reminder the White Elephant Rummage Sale takes place March 24-25 (Fri-Sat). Drop-off goods March 21-22 (Tues-Wed)

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7pm in the Fireside Room.

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CLOSE AND ADJOURNMENT

Debra Carter closed the meeting with a prayer. Chair Terry Sherman adjourned the meeting at 9:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John L. Green
Church Council Secretary