

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
January 17, 2017

**Attendance:** Debra Carter, Ron Dunn, Don Field, John Green, Lea Hickman, Paul Kuelz, Jim McKnight, Mark Miller, Rhonda Poole, Bill Rust, Terry Sherman, Brad Tolstedt, Fred Toney.

**Absent:** Luke Ham, Harry Knapp, Joanne Van Bezey, Carol Warnock.

**Guests:** Lyn Arscott, Jim Burk, Dick Lam, Dean McWilliams, Kathleen Saghafi.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Church Council Chair, Terry Sherman, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm in the Fireside Room.

**OPENING DEVOTION/PRAYER**

Lay Leader, Debra Carter, offered a prayer to open the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION

It was moved that the Church Council December 12, 2016 minutes be approved as presented. The minutes were unanimously approved with the following exception: Last sentence of Diversity Update modified to, "David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion, will lead the training, hopefully starting in February."

**DIVERSITY UPDATE**

Lay Leader Debra Carter reported a conference call with David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion, will be made Tuesday, January 24, to discuss the training schedule.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Fred Toney reported that \$10,000 in additional pledges had been received, bringing total pledges to \$839,602 toward our proposed budget of \$1,010,000. The committee has communicated, via e-mail and phone calls, with those people who pledged last year but haven't so far this year. The committee also has made phone calls to regular identified givers, requesting the giver consider offering a pledge. Fred stated the committee has done all it can to increase pledges for 2017.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Finance Committee Outgoing Chair, Brad Tolstedt, and Incoming Chair, Rhonda Poole, reported a potential \$85-90K shortfall in 2017 proposed budget. Basically, two-pronged discussion followed: 1) How to encourage the congregation to increase giving, thereby reducing the shortfall, and 2) Make known to the congregation the expenses/programs/staff cuts required to form a proposed balanced 2017 budget. They are waiting for the results of the stewardship campaign to finalize the budget.

The Church Council Chair and the Finance Committee Chair will join in preparing a letter/e-mail to the congregation households. The "Urgent" communication will inform members of the budget shortfall, and request recipients consider additional pledge amounts. The letter will also inform recipients of the very real expense cuts necessary if no further pledges are received. A Sunday service announcement will occur the same time communications are sent.

The Finance Committee will review options and identify potential cuts. Resultant alternatives and potential cuts will be submitted to the Church Council February 21.

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
January 17, 2017

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**

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

1. Rendering of sanctuary windows is done. Will present to congregation in February.
2. Parking lot trenching has commenced, further reducing available parking. Continued effort to accommodate parking issues.
3. Kal Peters and Greg Warwick are a subcommittee of Trustees Disaster Control efforts.

**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

MOTION

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair, Don Field, made a motion to approve the Safe Sanctuary Policy document, updated June 2016. Mark Miller 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was approved, with one abstention.

Other SPRC business: 1) SPRC has completed Job Descriptions for staff personal; they are ready for review by an ad hoc committee. 2) SPRC is developing a proposed multi-level salary table.

**RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE**

Risk Taking Mission and Service chairperson, Paul Kuelz, reported SRVUMC is a participant in welcoming a Refugee Resettlement family from Afghanistan. We and Danville's Church of Latter-Day Saints join Catholic Charities to assist this family of seven in eventually settling in the Antioch area. They arrive at Oakland airport on January 24, 11:00am. The father had worked with the US military in some capacity, allowing the family to resettle under a Special Immigrant Visa. The family consists of Mom, Dad, and five boys all eight or younger. Announcements and information this month will inform the congregation of this service opportunity, including supplies and services needed to support the family.

**PASTORS' MOMENTS**

Pastor Ron Dunn reported on these items:

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr Interfaith Celebration held yesterday (January 16) was a success. Rev, Staci Current, our District Superintendent and keynote speaker, gave the gathering of 90 a moving speech, entitled, "The Audacity of Hope." Ron emphasized the importance of our ability, facility, and devotion to providing these types of activities within our communities. Ron expressed thanks to the Peace and Justice Committee members and the others who supported this celebration.
2. Ron plans to spend a week in Haiti on mission work with Warren McGuffin (Feb 28-Mar 6). There will be a special Lenten focus in our church to raise \$15,000 for a solar oven for Haiti.
3. Luke kicked-off a new sermon series January 15, "A Reel Epiphany, Finding God in the Movies." First: "Unbroken." Next, Jan 22: "The Spitfire Grill."
4. As the ARC opening nears, discussions continue regarding our Recreational Ministry Outreach. Emphasis will center on a set of core values. For example, the value of recreation will center not on wins/loses, but on teamwork, dedication, support, etc.
5. 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.

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church  
Church Council Minutes  
January 17, 2017

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Strategic Development Chair, Jim McKnight, reported Church Council 2017 Objectives and Goals need to be developed and approved. As requested, Jim will e-mail the 2016 Objectives and Goals to Council Members.

Jim McKnight praised the Board of Trustees and chairperson, Mark Miller, for their extensive list of accomplishments in 2016.

2. MOTION.

Jim Burk, Present ARC Director, presented a plan for the ARC Rental and Individual Use Rates. Based on the SRV Unified School District rates, hourly rates were presented for organizations and groups (\$40 hourly with signed contract), and for "Church and Community Members," (\$4 hourly for up to 3-hour session, depending on a waiting queue.). Board of Trustee Chair, Mark Miller, moved the proposal be approved. Don Field 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the motion was unanimously approved. Once the ARC is operational, subsequent rate change will be the responsibility of the ARC Commission (similar to our Pre-School Commission).

3. MOTION.

Jim Burk presented a proposal to establish The ARC Commission. Similar to our Pre-School Commission, the Commission Chair would report to the Church Council. Other ingredients to the Commission are a Vice-Chair, an ARC Director (Operational responsibility), and a representative from existing SRVUMC Committees (Finance; SPRC; Trustees); Spiritual Development Minister, and 1-3 At Large Members. Jim McKnight made a motion to approve the proposed ARC Commission. Fred Toney 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it was passed unanimously. Jim Burk offered to perform a dual role during transition to operational to work with an ARC Director. As transition time might be disruptive, the Council applauds Jim's willingness to carry-on in the dual role.

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

**CLOSE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Pastor Ron Dunn closed the meeting with a prayer. Chair Terry Sherman adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Green  
Church Council Secretary