

FUMC Church Council
Minutes

Monday, Oct 7 6:30

The church council is the primary group responsible for the overall ministry of the local church. By establishing the vision of the congregation, the council can then help to order and implement the various ministry opportunities.

We welcomed Janeen Anderson, Rev Lee, Betty Hill, John Kindred, Richard Kittel, John Morgan, Judy Stout, Marlene Thurman, Barry Wehrle, and Rev Leslie. Charlie Bouchard joined as a facilitator and Carolyn Bouchard joined as a Zoom manager. We happily welcomed guests Ginny Angelovic, Dale Thurman, Janet Wood, Melinda Bart, Alison Williams and Kay Neckel. Jen Kuzmich from Loveland Preschool joined us as well to answer questions.

Devotion ~ Judy recalled Joy Shaw's comments from the September meeting: Joy called this [preschool] opportunity a 'God-wink.' God is leading us in the direction of sharing our resources for the good of the church and the community. One of the Bible verses that celebrated our movement this evening is Heb 13:16 **Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

Prayer concerns ~ victims of Hurricane Helene and those in the path of Milton.
Approval of Sept minutes and Oct 7 minutes will be done at the Oct 28 meeting.

The topic of this meeting was to update everyone on the progress made with the Loveland Preschool (LPS) project and discuss moving forward. Judy turned the discussion over to Charlie Bouchard.

1. Charlie presented the latest [still preliminary] architectural plans [included with the minutes). Affected areas are the current Sunday school classroom and music room on the second floor, and the current Union space and former Noah's Art room on the third floor. All of the current 'users' of these spaces have been contacted and are amenable to the plans. Union wants the balcony; Susan is good with the plans.
2. The cost of the renovation will be ~\$50,000. **LPS has agreed to pay half of construction costs** that relate to their space (not including wall moving or flooring).
3. Church Council previously authorized up to \$10,000 for architectural/engineering work to establish the feasibility of this preschool remodel project.

Discussion questions and comments:

- Q: Is this a rental or a lease? A: We have a signed lease; They pay the rent.
- While the nursery and Sunday school classroom will share the area now occupied by the nursery, we hope both will grow in size. At that time, the older children will be able to use space in the Youth Range for Sunday school.
- We aim to have all rooms as multi-purpose rooms. Rooms may need to be renamed to discourage 'ownership' of the room by any group. This will require those of us who schedule meetings to be very organized about getting meetings and events on the church calendar.
- Money saving notes:
 - o Jen Kuzmich has worked hard to find a plan that incurs the least construction costs.
 - o John Freeman called the architects who did the original work, and they still have the drawings.
- Current plans won't require digging in the floor, so pipes won't be a problem.
- None of the walls to be removed/built are load-bearing.
- Regulatory requirements for LPS (from their agency)
 - o State licensing will come to look at the space; that will determine the number of students they can have.
 - o The Fire Dept says the space is up to code; they inspect once a year. No sprinklers required.
 - o The Health Dept checks for adequate bathrooms and sinks and checks for radon.
 - o Health and Fire inspect after the work is done; State may be able to come earlier.
- This information will respond to requirements from our District Building and Relocation Committee.
- Q: What will having workers come and go do to our security? A: That is a work in progress!
- The preschool currently has 68 students; their capacity is 72 students. They will be able to accommodate 15 – 20 additional students if they can have an afternoon session for 4 – 5-year-olds. They have no students with disabilities. They would never turn down any such students, but the public schools have more resources. LPS is a parent cooperative, with parents volunteering on a regular basis.
- **Jen noted: we aren't here to make money but to serve the families and the community—just like FUMC is doing.**
- Q: Are you moving out of Mountain View? A: Yes, we got an email at the beginning of the school year saying that our lease would not be renewed. The church needs the space. We were taken by surprise and had to move quickly to see if we could remain open. We have until Nov. 1st to let the state know that we will be able to operate.
- With regards to flooring, Richard said that he would like to have been able to address high safety need areas first, but all the flooring material is not available. The sanctuary and Coy Hall will be the first areas to get flooring.
- We will have to plan for the order of renovation (i.e. walls before floors, etc.).
- The remodel will not be paid for from the foundation, but with proceeds from the property sale.

Actions:

1. **Motion by John Kindred, second by John Morgan: Move to approve the architectural plans so we can go out to bid and move forward to lease space to Loveland Preschool beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Passed unanimously.**
2. **Motion by John Kindred, second by Janeen Anderson: Move to approve ideas on relocation of affected users/space so we can move forward with plans and work needed to accomplish our goals in a timely manner. Passed unanimously.**
3. **We need to set a date for a Charge Conference, and we need to give 10 days' notice. Charge Conference will be at 5:30 on Thursday, October 17, place to be determined. Zoom will be available.**
In order to provide better communication, Dale encouraged Rev. Leslie to include information about this project in the *Window* and the weekly newsletter. This will be the topic at the next church potluck. Since this opportunity has needed such a quick turnaround, it has been difficult to provide accurate information, but Judy has encouraged people to read the Church Council minutes.
4. **In April, we asked Dale Thurman to act as a 'property manager' for rental space opportunities, and he thoughtfully declined.**
Motion by John Kindred, second by Betty Hill: Ask Rob Proctor to lead the Ad Hoc committee moving forward with the LPS project. Passed with one abstention. (Question about whether he has experience with construction; he has led Pura Vida construction; he knows who to ask for assistance; one doesn't need to be an expert in construction to be a project manager...a reasonable familiarity of the construction process and ability to communicate and coordinate all the "pieces and parts and players" is optimum. Rob will be on Trustees in Jan, and if he accepts, he will work with Trustees before then as needed.) Rob has graciously agreed to accept this position. (10-9-24)
5. **Moving forward with the preschool plans will require a HUGE closet-and-other-storage-space clean-out. Judy asked if Trustees/Décor & Design committee would lead this effort. Richard and Marlene responded that they would talk about this at Trustees on Thurs night.**
Judy asked if there are others who would help do the work. These people responded: John K, Dale Thurman and John M for 5Ms (will do the work, but won't make decisions), Judy Stout, Carolyn Bouchard, Pam Erikson, Alison Williams.
Suggestions: Ask who is using the crafts; put 'stuff' out in Coy Hall and ask people (including LPS, Truscott staff and parents) to take it. Carolyn offered to make inventory clipboards by each of the storage spaces.

New Business:

John Morgan gave an SPRC report regarding the Children's Coordinator position. SPRC has met with TUMC, SPRC and Union, and they have re-written the job description. The new position will be split among FUMC (three hours), TUMC (two hours) and Union (four-five hours). The person will probably be housed in the Youth Range office. The hiring responsibility will be Union's. Responsibilities for FUMC will be to coordinate and train Sunday school teachers, classes and curriculum.

Next meetings:

There may be additional meetings to discuss Loveland Preschool issues. Zoom will be an option.

Oct 28 @ 6:30

Nov 18 or Dec 1 to approve budget

Church Conference date TBD

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?
May we not be of one heart though we are not of one opinion?
Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite,
notwithstanding their smaller differences." John Wesley