

**First United Methodist Church**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
March 10, 2019

Present: Zac Stombaugh, Bill LaDage, John Burnam, Alan Lurkins, Brandi Gathe, Clayton Gathe, Kim Warner, Sue Miller, Ryan Kaiser, Terry Westerfield, and Casey Kistler.

Absent: JD Vieregge, Amy Vieregge, Dean Black, Rich Well, Kim Well, Reid Well, Gene Schwarm, Patrick Myers, Alexa Campbell, Mike Baker, Pam Baker, and Darrel Casey.

Chairperson Zac Stombaugh called the meeting to order at 11:45a. Pastor Terry offered prayer. Alan Lurkins shared a devotion.

The following addition was made to the January minutes: Sue Miller will give the July devotion, and Bill LaDage will give April's devotion. With no further additions or corrections, the minutes from the January meeting were approved as posted on the church's website.

Year-to-date financial statements were reviewed. The statements were accepted and will be filed as presented. A print out of the Designated Funds will be presented at April's Council meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Nurture:** Chairperson Brandi Gathe shared the committee's goals for 2019: 1) update the Friends in Faith program, 2) assist with the Meals on Wheels program, and 3) have a couple Invitational Sundays throughout the year. March 24 is Camping Sunday with a spaghetti luncheon.

**Outreach:** Chairperson Kim Warner stated one of the committee's goals for 2019 is "The Church Has Left the Building". This focuses on mission work in Fayette County. The work may include cleaning up a yard, a work project (i.e. building a ramp, etc.). The need may be from someone in the church or if anyone knows someone in the community needing assistance. Some type of brochure or card will be left at each residence advertising our worship times and activities offered during the week.

**Witness:** Chairperson Sue Miller said the committee discussed what projects to keep, change, or add throughout the year. They will continue the teacher appreciation trays at Christmas. They will not be doing the May Day flowers this year. They may hold a hot chocolate outreach during the Halloween and/or Christmas parades this year. They will contact McDonald's about possibly handing out coupons that will include our church information on the back. Planning to host another concert this year with a different group.

**Finance:** Chairperson John Burnam said the committee met briefly after worship about a month ago. The date for Stewardship Sunday is set for Sunday, October 27.

**United Methodist Men:** The Sausage and Pancake Supper is Thursday, March 14.

**Preschool:** Chairperson Bill LaDage stated the board met on January 15. The preschool has been fully incorporated into the General fund budget. They will continue to have fundraisers. Roughly \$1,900.00 profit was made from the pastry fundraiser last November. They are finalizing a safety plan and detailed job descriptions. The by-laws are due to be reviewed. They were established in 2015 and are to be reviewed every three years. The by-laws state the Church Council is to appoint a committee to oversee this. We will revisit this topic at our April meeting.

**Lay Leader:** No report.

**Staff Parish Relations:** Chairperson Alan Lurkins reported Steph Kilzer has been hired as our new Music Director. She's on a 90-day probationary period.

**Trustees:** Chairperson Clayton Gathe stated the committee met but didn't have enough for a quorum. Work on the heat in the kitchen needs to take place. Outside work at the parsonage is on their to-do list. ERT is requesting

a new trailer. More research needs to be done on this before any decision is made. A couple of council members asked why a new one was needed. Clayton responded more research will be done, before one is purchased. The Trustees goals for 2019 include: camera footage for the new building and playground, as well as the blessing box, and work completed at the garage lot. An email will be sent out to board members to see if they prefer Sunday meetings, or go back to Thursday meetings to achieve better attendance.

**Early Response Team:** No report.

**Columbarium Committee:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Terry reported the Trustee savings account information needs updated annually. Last year it was approved to have Trustee chair, Finance chair, and Lay Leader authorized signers on the account. Pastor Terry made a motion that Clayton Gathe, John Burnam, and Gene Schwarm be made authorized signers for First National Bank Trustee savings account for 2019. Kim Warner seconded. Motion carried.

New Business: If committees have not yet set their goals for 2019, please make sure to do so by next month's council meeting.

Discussion took place on the church assessment video. The Staff Parish Relations committee watched the video and completed a survey discussing the stage of our church. The Council was emailed the video to watch as well. Our church was assessed as in "Maintenance mode". Members felt the result was pretty spot on. 2019 goals for the council include following up with the assessment report. Possibly give the congregation the option to view the video and look at the questions that were presented. Pastor Terry mentioned doing this on one of the Sundays in July when he will be on vacation. We need to offer better communication, so the congregation is informed of topics brought to the council as well as decisions made. We will revisit this discussion at the April meeting.

Our April meeting will be moved to April 7 due to Palm Sunday falling on April 14. Our May meeting is moved to May 19 due to Mother's Day falling on May 12.

With no further business to be brought before the Council, Zac adjourned the meeting at 12:40p.

The next meeting will be on April 14, 2019, at 11:45a in Wesley Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Casey Kistler