

St. Francisville United Methodist Church
Special Meeting of Church Council: September 27, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

Church Council was properly noticed to Church Council (CC) members via email from Church Council Chair, Stacey King on September 21, 2022. Agenda for the meeting was sent to CC members on September 22, 2022 from Council Chair. Members of SFUMC were further notified of the meeting and that it was open to church members on September 27, 2022.

The Minutes of this meeting as set forth below are hereby certified by Recording Secretary, Mathilde McCann.

Church Council Members Present:

Brenda Ard	Nancy Bailey	Jerry Beauchamp	Virginia Crawford
Debra Davis	Daniel Hixon	Linda Holmes	
Cathy Howard	Ada Lord	Joe Kelley	Neal King
Stacey King	Mathilde McCann	Amanda McKinney	Claire Mott
Matt Paxton	John Piper	Pam Rabb	Danielle Ritchie
Martha Robertson	Sam Rosso	Theresa Stevens	Haley Green

Church Council Members Absent:

Cathy Howard Michael Clinton Sullivan

Meeting began at 5:30 pm

Minutes Presented in Order of Agenda Topics:

1. **Opening Prayer & Comments:** The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Daniel Hixon.
2. **Today's Meeting** (Stacey King)
 - Presented the Agenda. Motion made by Virginia Crawford to accept the agenda. Motion seconded by Nancy Bailey. Unanimously approved.
 - Minutes from August 28, 2022 Church Council Meetings were presented for review. Claire Mott requested we add to the minutes the council speakers at the last meeting along with corrections to the Table 2 Discussion, the vote not following Robert's Rules, no opportunity to object to the voting method. Amanda McKinney made a motion to correct the minutes. Claire Mott made a motion to table the minutes to address the corrections needed. Seconded by Ada Lord. Unanimously approved.
3. **Ministry Area Highlights:**
 - Care & Nurture-Nancy Bailey presented the committee report prepared by Cathy Howard and provided a copy.
 - Worship-Virginia Crawford presented her committee report and provided a copy.
 - Adult Education & Discipleship-none
 - Missions-Debra Davis presented her committee report via Zoom.
 - Children's Council-Lauren Daniel presented her committee report.
 - Youth Council-Matt Paxton presented the committee report for Youth Ministry.
 - UMM-Joe Kelley gave a report on UMM.
 - ELC-Linda Holmes gave a report on the daycare.
4. Motion made by Joe Kelley to accept the ministry reports. Seconded by Virginia Crawford. Unanimously approved.

5. Administrative Reports:

- Finance-Theresa Stevens reported from the Finance Committee that they voted to not accept funds designated for Disaffiliation payment. Motion made by Martha Robertson to accept Finance recommendations regarding Disaffiliation payment. Sam Rosso seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ministry areas need to look at their budgets and lessen accordingly, shrink by 10-15%. Neal King reported on the Church Finances and the ELC finances.
- Staff Parish Relations-Haley Green presented the report for SPR. They are working on job descriptions for all staff. They are clarifying the contract for Ann Andries in her capacity of consultant for ELC. 90 day review for Tessa McBeth, ELC Director, will take place. There is a meeting Monday, October 3, 2022. Staff vacation policies are also getting created.
- Trustees-Sam Rosso presented the report and provided a copy. The town signs that were remade by Kathi & Gerald Bates were denied by the mayor. The ELC interior painting is completed. ELC flooring replacement is postponed. D'Aquila Cleaning is handling all the of the ELC weekly cleaning and seems to be going well. All Capital Improvements have been postponed due to the Discernment and all Trustees meeting cancelled.
- Nominations & Lay Leadership-Daniel presented the report. Jan Curwick recommended extending the current officers terms until after the vote in the Spring. Church Council is requesting that the current Lay Leadership be presented to Charge Conference in October. Joe Kelley asked if those on the committees have agreed to serve. Daniel assured that those that may not wish to serve can be replaced as needed by Church Council.
- Motion made by John Piper to bring current Lay Leadership report to Charge Conference. Seconded by Linda Holmes. Unanimously approved.

6. Discerning Our Way Forward-Affiliation/Disaffiliation:

A. General Comments, Objectives of Discernment Process to be fair, balanced and

representative of beliefs from both sides, Ongoing Efforts: Jerry Beauchamp and Stacey King.

- Stacey King began by reflecting on the Roller Coaster of Change diagram provided.
- She discussed the need to provide the congregation an information packet in near term that is fair, balanced and representative of both sides.
- The role and makeup of Discernment Leadership Team was discussed. It includes the leads for each of the Discernment Task Forces (Prayer, Congregation Connection, Business/Legal, Administrative, Affiliation Options) plus Pastor, Lay Leader, Church Council Chair.
- The Task Force Team chairs (Prayer, Congregation Connection, Business/Legal and Administrative) provided a report that included key purpose, activities, and task force members. See attached reports.

B. Consultant Support Includes:

- Benefit/Costs and
- Consultant Candidates Overview: Craig Gilliam and Mike Gammill.
- Stacey King discussed the need for a consultant to provide assistance to us in further developing the discernment process, discernment information packet and, conducting small group discussion amongst our members. She emphasized the necessity to proceed now. She discussed communications has had with consultant candidate Craig Gilliam, and further recent conversation among him, Jerry and her to understand his process and availability. Based on those discussion, Craig indicated he was likely not available until January 2033. She also reviewed discussion she and Jerry had with consultant candidate Mike Gammill and then follow up discussion she and Jerry had with three different references provided by Mike.
- Stacey discussed the value of getting a neutral consultant that is very familiar with the disaffiliation considerations and process, particularly in the Louisiana Conference.

She indicated that both candidates were currently consulting for one or more churches in the conference.

- She provided in advance of the meeting a comparison table of the two candidates; see attached. The comparison table was reviewed and discussed. Stacey noted that both were very qualified, but their consulting process is somewhat different. It was noted the most significant difference was timing of availability, Mike Gammill being Nov. 2022 and Craig Gilliam early 2023.
 - Discussion from the floor followed as to the benefits/regrets of proceeding now with getting a consultant versus postponing until January 2023. There was also discussion about avoiding discernment townhalls during the holidays. All seemed to agree with the objective to not conduct during the holidays.
 - Mike Gammill then joined the Zoom call to discuss his background and describe key elements of the process he would recommend. Those elements included in order:
 - Information Packet along with format for follow up Q&A.
 - Foundational Prayer program during key part of the process
 - Townhall meetings over 2 days in the later part of January that involved facilitated small group discussions on key issues.
 - Conduct a congregation survey that is kicked off in Sunday worship and continues through the week that is intended to provide Church Council a good understanding of where the congregation sits on whether or not to disaffiliate.
 - Then Mike would review and discuss with the Church Council the survey results. He indicated that careful consideration whether to proceed with a vote would be needed by Church Council if the survey doesn't indicate overwhelming support.
 - Mike Gammill then took questions from the floor including such things as what are theological differences, whether the vote should be based on "conscience" regarding homosexuality issues, process related questions, survey intent and questions, and other related questions.
 - After Mike left the call, discussions followed about the desire to have a similar type of discussion with Craig Gilliam. A motion was made to table a vote on hiring Mike until we could arrange an interview session with Craig Gilliam. The motion was made by John Piper and seconded Haley Green. The motion passed. Stacey and Jerry took the action to attempt to arrange a Zoom meeting with him within a week, pending Craig's availability.
7. Adjourn: Motion made by Sam Rosso to adjourn, seconded by Pam Rabb. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 7:56 pm.

Audio and video recordings of the meeting are available for review in the Church Office.

All Minutes, Motions and Votes Reflected above are hereby certified by:

Mathilde McCann, Recording Secretary

Date: October 26, 2022

Church Council: September 27, 2022

Committee: Care & Nurture

Key Activities since last Church Council:

- **Meals/Fellowship/Frozen Casserole Team**
 - ACTS met in August-low attendance & Septeme well attended.
 - Frozen Casseroles grouped cooked another batch to restock freezer. Made at least a dozen of each: spaghetti and meatballs, shephard's pie, chicken noodle soup.
 - We've delivered to many of our Church family and a few o/s our congregation (27 already delivered)
 - Another shared ministry is the new Flower delivery ministry that also helps deliver some meals with the flower deliveries and vice versa.
 - Coordinated food with Worship Committee for Fall, October Outdoor worship and Church picnic
 - Used "Take Them A Meal" for a couple of members (used for longer term illnesses and/or recoveries.
- **Cards/Phone Call Team**
 - These needs are announced in Church Services and/or emailed/called into Church office. We send get well and sympathy cards. Our prayer requests also helps identify which families may be in need of a meal/flowers or weeks of meals.
- **Prayer Team**
 - Church office keeps this team informed.
- **LIFT – Ladies in Fellowship Together**
 - 3rd event this year was hiring Raelynne Dreher to lead the group (and she supplied all the canvases, paint, brushes, etc) in painting our stained glass round window with the dove. Another huge success and well attended for food, fun, and fellowship. Some of the paintings will be donated to home bound or nursing homes. Currently they are hung in FH.
 - No current Bible studies
- **College and Military Outreach Team**
 - Events/needs TBD
- **Bereavement Team**
 - TBD
- **Care & Nurture – Moment of Sharing in 09/25/2022**
 - Spoke at both services.
 - Updated our "How can you serve" Flyer and put in bulletin.
 - Received 4-5 back with volunteers requesting information.
 - Passed out "volunteer" sheets for various foods for 10/16/22 outdoor worship & picnic

Any Matter Requiring Church Council Discussion/Decision/Coordination

Upcoming Calendar Events

- October 18th —ACTS Luncheon, guest Comedian Preacher
- Oct/Nov – TBD: Frozen Casserole cook/package day to restock freezer
- October 16- Fall Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic – Coordinating food with Worship Committee
- November 15th - ACTS luncheon

Worship Committee Report to Church Council

September 27 2022

Key activities since last Church Council meeting:

- All ministry reports to congregation during worship completed
- Completed plans for fall BACK TO CHURCH outdoor worship to be held Sunday, October 16, 2022 at 10:30 on Hwy 61 property

Upcoming activities:

- All Saint's Day Worship
- Thanksgiving (door wreaths & banner)
- Four Christmas services
- Christmas Eve services

Church Council Report for September 27th, 2022 Meeting

Committee: Board of Trustees

1. Key Activities since March Church Council Meeting:

- a. Replacement of last Church Sign in town limits - installation denied by Mayor**
- b. Burleigh Painting, LLC – ELC Building Interior Painting - complete**
- c. ELC is utilizing and funding - Louis D'Aquila – 61 Detailing – for cleaning of the ELC Building (twice a week)**
- d. Floor refinishing/replacement in ELC Building – proposed plan postponed by ELC until next year**

2. Any Matter Requiring Church Council Discussion/Decision/Coordination:

All 2022 previously planned/remaining projects will be delayed until Church discernment matters are settled. BOT will continue to proceed with completing/addressing emergency repairs on an as needed basis.

3. Upcoming Calendar Events – no additional monthly Board of Trustee Meetings will be held for the remainder of 2022. If an emergency issue arises and a Board of Trustees approval is needed, the situation and rectifying options will be presented to the Board of Trustees via e-mail for approval/disapproval.

4. Indicator Status: Due to ongoing Church discernment process, all planned/remaining 2022 projects will be postponed until discernment matters are settled.

NOTES FROM PRAYER TASK FORCE MEETING: 9.14.22

Attendees: Virginia Crawford, Jean Fox, Joe Kelley, Stacey King, Daniel Hixon. Other Invitees: Kathi Bates, Ada Lord, Karen Berman, and Linda Holmes

Below is a summary of GO FORWARD Recommendations developed by this team:

- Prayer program is the foundation for our discernment process
- 40-Day Prayer program running over the period when formal discernment begins (ie. Education and Discovery Sessions and Listening Sessions)
 - Initial Themes: Wisdom, Unity, God's Will, Holy Spirit, Peace, Trust, Healing, Church, Forgiveness, Revival
 - Daily prayer program consists of theme, scriptures, and sample prayer.
 - Suggest individuals set an alarm every day at a certain time to reflect on prayer.
 - In addition to being on web, discussed possibility of print version made available at worship services. Also discussed need for Daniel to flag in worship service and need to advertise going to Website for daily prayer
 - Discussed considering providing time following Wednesday night prayer service for individuals to remain in sanctuary to reflect on scriptures read and meaning. Christene and Kelli Daniel considering meditation practices time which could occur on Wednesday or Sunday before services.
- Prefer the calendar format on the front page of the website like Shreveport with Theme and Scripture reference, and then you like click on to read scripture and prayer.
- Discussed the need, depending on timing of formal discernment, to develop Prayer Guide leading up to and then after for healing and forgiveness (Shoulder Prayer Programs).
- Discussed potential for Daily Prayer discussion in ladies, men session. Might also want to consider discussing key themes and scripture at Youth meeting.
- Virginia provided prayer programs from 3 different churches for the team to review and identify the 40 we prefer to use at our next meeting.
- We will also have a Prayer Walk during formal Discernment period. We will have a prescribed time for a group walk and encourage individual walk. We will put up Prayer Board for individuals to post when they did their walk and their prayer request.
- Will have dedicated days of fasting at key events in discernment and right before vote.
- Also, would like to have a few Unity Nights that would include prayer, singing, fellowship and feed folks. Maybe kickoff of Discernment where we have short program describing Discernment, then in the middle and then in the end, and then leading up to the vote and after the vote. Sing, Pray, Fellowship.
- Looking for relevant Bible Study for Sunday --- looking at one on discernment. Stacey to get books to team. Joe also has a good study of the 4 voices.

NEXT MEETING: Friday 9/23/22, 1:00 pm at Virginias house.

Discernment Task Force Prayer Team Report

Members: Virginia Crawford, Ada Lord, Kathi Bates, Jean Fox, Karen Berman, Joe Kelley, Stacey King

The word “discernment” implies the existence of a pathway toward greater clarity as it comes from Latin meaning “to distinguish” or “to separate” which suggests that we can sort out and sift through choices and alternatives in life. The scriptures repeatedly acknowledge the existence of a sure pathway, therefore, this team is prayerfully consulting and compiling resources and activities that we trust will foster and encourage scripture-led prayer by our church family as we enter a discernment period seeking God’s Will for the way forward for our church family. Below are some of the resources and/or activities that we are considering and working on.

- 1.) 40-day prayer calendar guide consisting of a scripture and prayer which embraces a particular focus such as wisdom. All members are contributing to this 40-day guide researching and selecting scripture and a prayer for a given theme. We expect to have this guide completed by October 7, 2022 which will be part of the Church Discernment Resources website.
- 2.) Other suggested activities to engage members in prayer are:
 - a.) Prayer walk
 - b.) Daily text message reminders to pray
 - c.) Prayer sessions on Wednesday evenings using scripture meditations, scripture study, centering prayer
 - d.) Sunday school discernment study for six weeks
 - e.) Church-wide prayer & fasting days (2)

BUSINESS & LEGAL DISCERNMENT TASK FORCE:

Notes from 9//7/22 Kickoff Meeting

Team Attendees: Theresa Stevens, Neal King, Sam Russo, Haley Green, Stacey King. (Note: Daniel joined for discussion on stewardship campaign and church council nomination discussion).

Below is a summary of key discussions, takeaways and followup actions. Please advise of any additions or further suggestions

1. Went thru list provided by DS of items required before the vote(attached and handed out). No significant concerns were identified. Michael Hessee, local attorney is doing update title review. Sam is formalizing Facility Use Agreement on Hwy 61.
2. We reviewed and discussed potential financial impacts either way. We reviewed graphs depicting distribution of giving in '22. Decided it would be more useful to base financial sensitivity model on '21 actuals. Consolidated assessment to be reviewed by Finance and presented to Church Council. A summary level comment should be prepared as a Frequently Ask Question (FAQ) for our congregation and available in future Townhalls.
3. Tithing & Budgeting: We discussed implications of discernment process on upcoming stewardship campaign and questions being asked by individuals on tithing options available to them. Agreed that there will be implications either way we end up. The general view presented was to proceed with stewardship campaign in normal cycle (fall). The thought of a 6-month budget thru 7/1/23 and mini followup stewardship campaign was discussed. Discussed tithe related questions being raises. Normal designation of funds to a particular ministry is an option, but Designation based on disaffiliation or designation to pay disaffiliation fee is a concern that needs further thought. Also discussed was the ability for members that have designated funds to request they be moved to another 501 c(3) outside the church. Theresa to seek Finance recommendations for further review and approval of Church Council. Further Tax and legal advice may be needed on this prior to bring to Church Council. Timing on Tithe Questions: Before stewardship campaign.
4. Church Council nominations: Nominations for next year to occur in normal cycle (upcoming) to prepare for submittal in fall charge conference. DS has indicated we can request to extend current offices until vote taken. Would anticipate need to update nominations regardless of vote outcome. Timing: Seek CC approval of new council and extension of existing prior to Charge Conference in Oct.
5. Articles of Incorporation/New Entity: Must have new entity in place prior to vote and registered with Secretary of State and obtain new EIN from IRS. If decision is to remain, we will dissolve new entity with Secretary of State. Haley indicated development of new Articles of Incorporation and filing should not be pretty easy and straight forward working off exiting and updating to current situation as needed. She will seek further input from Doug as needed and local attorney, Michael Hessee as needed. I will provide her current Articles ('53) and a couple of go bys. Document to be ultimately reviewed and approved by
6. New Entity Bylaws: They address how the church will operate— but not needed if remain UMC as the Book of Discipline serves as the Bylaws. Otherwise need if disaffiliate and may require further conforming if affiliate with other Methodist group depending on their version of the Book of Discipline. The goal is to base Bylaws as close as possible to current operations, governance, etc.

Since this seemed to be an area of concern voiced by some in August 28 meeting, I think it would be a good idea to develop a bullet point outline over the next month for use by Affiliation Task Force Team as they are evaluating options so they can identify anything to the contrary. This would be a good agenda item for our next Task Force meeting. Outline needs to be approved by CC. Also probably needs to be a Q&A item for future townhalls. Timing: Outline developed approved by CC over the next couple of months. Not finalized until church conference vote.

7. Withdrawal Agreement: To be voted on when church conference vote is taken. Theresa indicated she would try to get us the form being used by the conference. Timing: Pre vote
8. Consultant Engagement Proposal: Discussed ongoing consideration of using an outside consultant to perform. Objective is to bring the temperature down and help individuals "to hear more clearly where they are and where God calls them for their future" This is not a venue for presenting positions on whether or not to disaffiliate and relative positions on each. Would hope to have session with Leadership team at Sept 27 Council meeting and then maybe a followup Listening sessions. We would hope to schedule congregation Listening sessions for November. We are currently in discussions with consultant to identify less expensive engagement. Timing Should have by early next week and will seek CC approval via zoom, potentially next week.
9. Discussed importance of Regular reporting to congregation of what is going on with various Task Forces, upcoming dates. In addition to website and newsletter, thought a bulletin insert would also be useful.
10. Other ?
 - a. Request to increase church council budget to cover projected costs of consultant, other discernment related expense projected.

Administrative Task Force
9/22/22 Update Report

Team : Tudy McCann and Tonia Metz (office temp)

Key Purpose: Provide administrative support for all discernment efforts.

Key Activities:

1. Performing Membership Audit on membership rolls and compiling documentation required by conference for modifications such as Removal/Death/Transfers: Ongoing
2. Compiling list of members with outdated/missing contact information. Updating or populating contact information in Breeze for these members: Upcoming
3. Website design, layout and administration for *Discerning Our Future* website pages: Ongoing
4. Facilitating signup for Small Group sessions: Upcoming
5. Administrative support preparing and filing legal documents and other documents required by Conference office: Upcoming
6. Administer future mail outs, anticipate sending postcard to all members on roles advising of Discernment meetings and providing website link. Will be responsible for mailing out formal church conference materials provided by DS: Upcoming
7. Newsletter, Bulletin, Congregation email: Prayer program items, Meeting reminders: Upcoming
8. Administrative Support for all Discernment Task Force efforts which includes assisting in creating documents, maintaining required files and records (online and paper), printing, ordering required supplies, meeting setup support, handling receipts and payments and records of discernment spending: Ongoing

Congregation Connection Discernment Task Force

9/20/22 Update

Task Force Members: Debra Davis (Lead), Ann Andries, Leisa Comeaux, Cathy Howard, Nancy Bailey, Amanda McKinney

Primary Purpose:

This task force will develop opportunities and identify educational resources for congregation members to learn about and discuss the issues surrounding the future affiliation of SFUMC.

Key Tasks:

1. Compile Education Information Packet for Congregation which includes FAQs and other key congregation communications.
2. Identify and disseminate balanced information through the church website.
3. Work with Tudy on content & design of the website
4. Identify and organize other ways of getting critical information out to the congregation.
5. Serve as a resource for educational and discussion opportunities
6. Identify and plan other activities to bring individuals together in fellowship
7. Facilitate responses to online Q&As

This team will work closely with the Lay Leader, Church Council Chair, Pastor and Consultant, if appropriate, in aligning materials to be presented to the congregation. Materials needing approval by Church Council will be forwarded to members for their consideration.

Ongoing Activities:

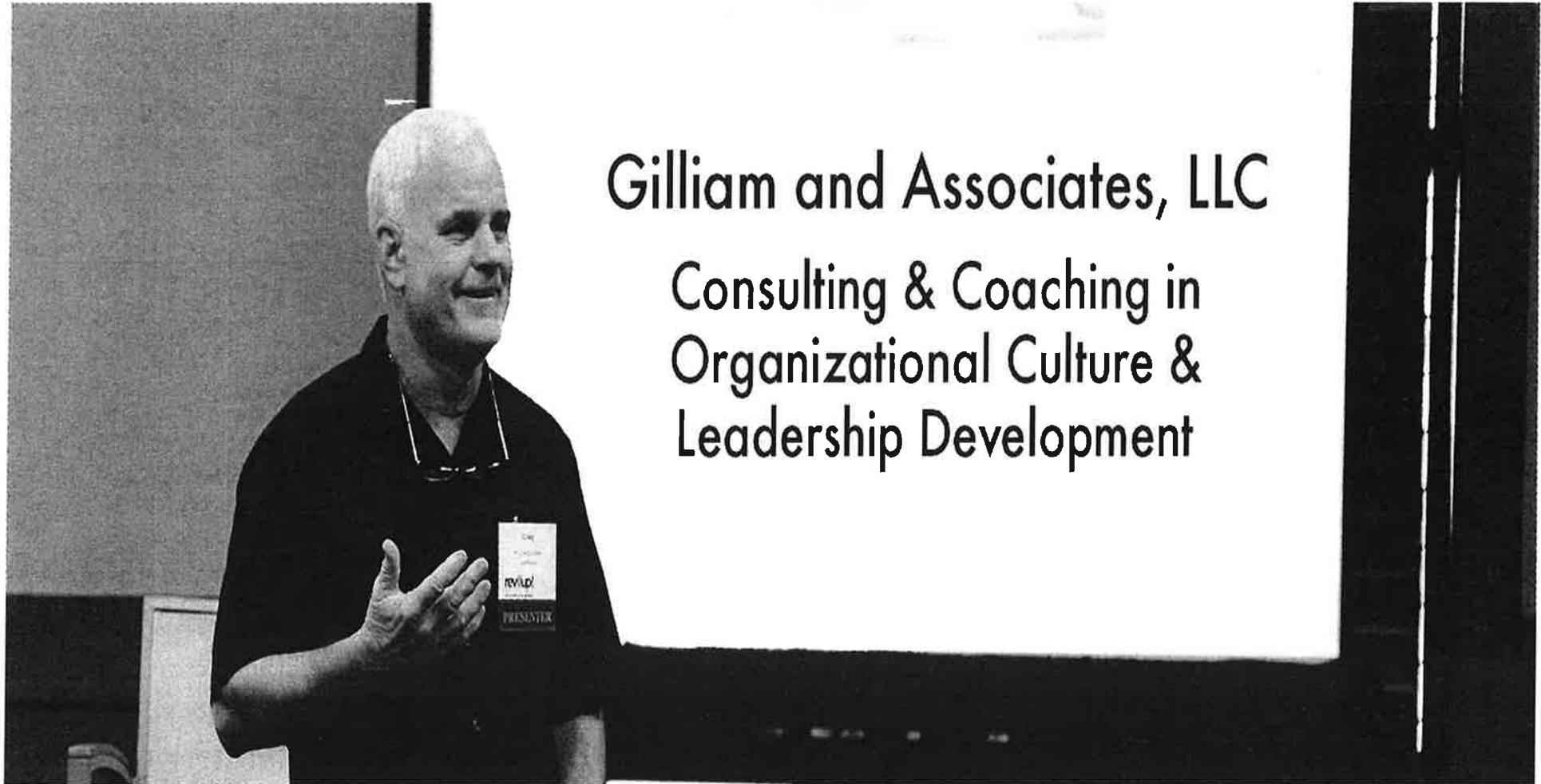
1. Organizing the Task Force members and orienting members to our charge

2. Conducted preliminary meeting with Amanda McKinney, Ella McKinney, Claire Mott, Abby Cochran, Nancy Bailey to seek feedback on what questions they feel need to be addressed and how best to accomplish
3. Working with Tudy on overall Website design
4. Updating current website Online resource list to include representative information from both sides and identifying new resources (videos, articles)
5. Developing draft Education/Information packet using First United Methodist of Shreveport as a model
6. Drafting FAQs—Phase 1.

Key Near Term Actions

1. Team Meeting week of Oct. 3 to review materials being drafted
2. Seek Church Council Approval of FAQs and other materials to be posted (October)
3. Develop recommendations for rolling out Information/Education package, videos.
4. Agree on communication postcard to membership referencing where to go for information—also includes postcard to members where we do not have good contact information. Seek Church Council approval as needed.
5. Preliminary planning for educational and small group sessions and fellowship events

Dr. Craig Gilliam: Gilliam & Assoc	Rev. Mike Gammill: Auxano Consulting
Corporate consulting and church consulting	Church consulting. Visioning specialty. Mike is an Ordained minister.
Availability: January '23	Availability: October 2022
Referred by DS/Jan Curwick. La. Conference used in other capacity. Currently consulting on 2 La. church disaffiliations?	Approved by La. Conference DS. Currently consulting on 1/2 other La. church disaffiliations and others out of state
3 prior conversations with him. La. Conference has used him in other capacities. Very qualified. His approach is more oriented to churches just entering discernment.	Referral input from 3 different UMC pastors. 2 of the churches progressive. All used him in visioning and comments very positive. Key skills: active listening, foster environment for constructive dialogue on issues, ability to synthesize and boil down to facilitate important decisions, forward looking approach.
<p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Training and understanding Change (zoom) • Host on-site small group Listening & Learning (LL) Sessions: 6-7, max 15 people over 2 days. 2 leadership team members in session/listening for common themes • Central Questions around How do you feel about affiliation, disaffiliation; what questions you need answered. Key objectives reduce the noise for individuals to discern and help them know their voice matters. • Online survey after Listening Session for those unable to attend or for those that attended and want to add more. • Provide written summary of reoccurring themes and observations 2 weeks from LL Sessions 	<p>Process: (See attached for more detail)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews and advises on materials to be presented to congregation to ensure its balanced • Advises on discernment process • Oct. 11 joins in CC meeting to review and discuss proposed go forward discernment process (zoom) • 2 days onsite to facilitate small group sessions more oriented to discussions on discernment topics. • Then conducts Congregation Assessment to inform where we are as a church and insight for future. • Reviews results with CC and facilitates its deliberations on next steps. (Zoom)
Costs are comparable ~ \$8000 with expense. Budget funds exists	



VISION:

ASSISTING CLIENTS TO HELP THEM "BE" AND "PERFORM"
AT THEIR BEST AND BRING OUT THE BEST IN OTHERS FOR
POSITIVE RESULTS!

Why Auxano?



Unique Ministry DNA

Unique ministry DNA is the foundation of every conversation and the key to every solution.



Collaborative Process

Collaborative process takes us out of today's urgent activity to decide on what's most strategic.



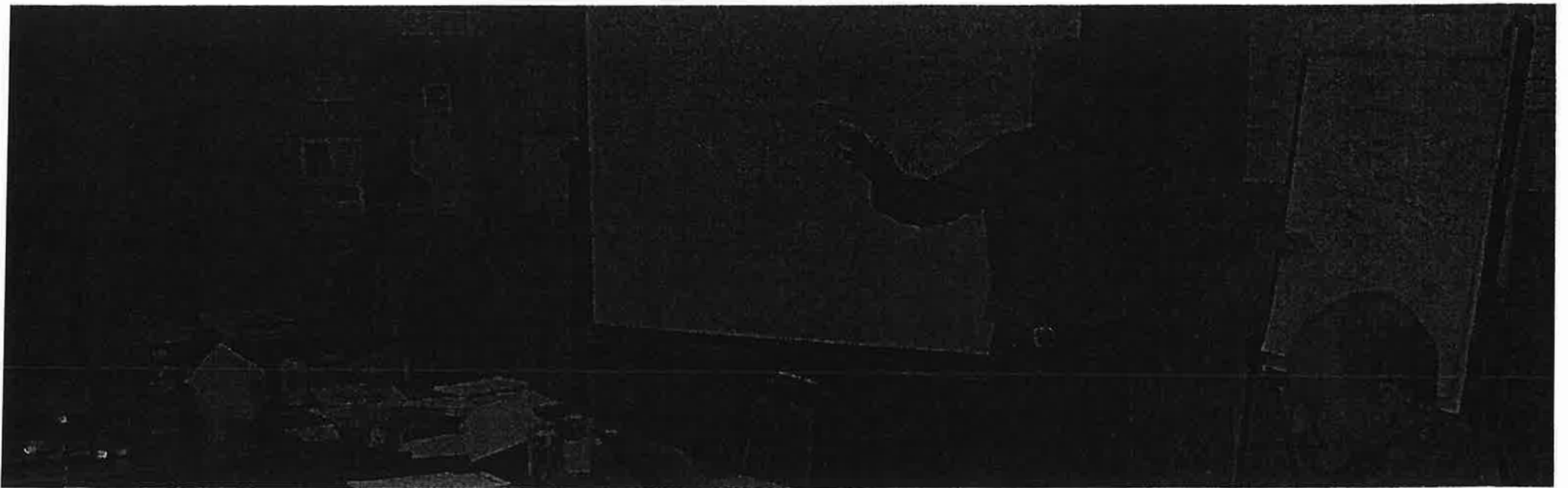
Break-Thru Clarity

Break-thru clarity ensures that everyone shares the vision with ownership and passion.



Real Growth

Real growth isn't a mystery but an intentional result of a proven process.



Auxano

Lead Navigator

We provide your team with an expert process facilitator who brings thought leadership and a strategic outside perspective.

Mike Gammill, Lead Navigator

From his early experience as an Associate Pastor on a staff of three, to his position as an Executive Pastor on a staff of over 30, Mike has a proven passion and demonstrated ability to identify and develop corporate potential in the local body of Christ. In addition to facilitating collaborative process, Mike is Auxano's Team Building Specialist and has helped churches, ranging from 50 to 15,000, maximize their ministry teams.

Mike has a Master's of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary and is an Ordained Elder in The Evangelical Church. He lives with his wife, Mary, and their two daughters, Adele and Elizabeth, in Bozeman, MT where they often get outside with their Golden Retriever, Sunny. Mike loves trail running and his 2022 goal is to complete the 100M Run Rabbit Run in Steamboat Spring, CO.



Discernment Process

How will we discern God's leading regarding denominational affiliation?

Purpose

St Francisville UMC church leadership has voted to consider disaffiliating from the UMC. This vote has triggered the need to communicate a clear discernment process and timeline. Balanced information will need to be fairly presented to the congregation to prayerfully process the issues surrounding denominational affiliation, dialogue in a safe and accountable environment, and communicate clearly their perspective to church and denominational leadership. Auxano's Discernment Process will reveal the insight needed for the congregation to explore the issues and more deeply understand one another. It will also provide the data needed for leadership to proceed according to the will and support of the congregation.

Deliverables

- At least 2 virtual sessions to customize approach to ensure a process that both process needs satisfy the guidelines of the conference, finalize the town hall meetings and the congregational survey.
- Communication packet oversight and editing (as needed) for clarity, balance, and fairness inline with conference guidelines.
- Two onsite days/evenings to include 2 evening and one afternoon townhall style meetings facilitated by your Auxano Senior Lead Navigator to ensure balance, impartiality, and fairness.
- Townhall small group discussion facilitator training aligned with conferences guidelines. This training to be done either virtually prior to the townhall meetings or in person.
- Custom congregational survey designed for use in worship and to be sent to all members on record to discern the sentiment of the congregation regarding future denominational affiliation. The survey will provide a strong indicator of support, or lack thereof, for denominational disaffiliation and provide evidence for or against calling for a congregational vote to disaffiliate.
- Post-survey virtual debrief with leadership to guide appropriate next steps in regard to denominational affiliation.