

St. Francisville United Methodist Church
Special Meeting of Church Council: November 1, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

Church Council was properly noticed to Church Council (CC) members via email from Church Council Chair, Stacey King on October 31, 2022. Agenda for the meeting was sent to CC members on October 31, 2022, from Council Chair.

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

Church Council Members Present

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

Church Council Members Absent:

Haley Green Michael Clinton Sullivan Neal King

The meeting was audio recorded which is available.

Handouts: Minutes from July 28,2022 and September 27, Church Council Meeting, Agenda for this meeting, copy of previous submitted Discernment Task Force reports indicating purpose and members, working draft of information packet.

Minutes Presented in Order of Agenda Topics:

- I. **Welcome & Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Church Council Chair, Stacey King at 5:15 pm
 - Roll Call was accomplished via sign-up sheet. In addition to Church Council members, Discernment Leadership Team, Consultant, Mike Gammill (zoom) and other church members attended as Guests. See attached Sign Up for record of attendance.
 - Meeting Format: Stacey advised of participation by Zoom and that voting would be accomplished either via voice, hand raise, or ballot as will be specified by her at the time. Church Council members on zoom can participate by sending comment or raising hand seeking recognition to the Council Secretary who is monitoring the Zoom call. The same applies for voting by Church Council members on zoom.
- II. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Daniel asked for prayer requests and then proceeded to open us in prayer

III. Agenda:

- Stacey presented the Agenda, noting the need to delete of the Oct. 11 Minutes item under Other Business, as they have not been completed and will be ready in time for our next meeting
- She reviewed the key meeting objectives being mainly to review and seek input from Church Council members on the draft discernment Information packet.
- Motion made by Debra Davis to accept the Agenda with the Oct 11 deletion and corresponding meeting format. John Piper seconded the motion. There was request for discussion. Chairman requested hand raise vote. All approved.

IV. Discernment Information Packet:

- Stacey kicked off the discussion recognizing the hard work of the Congregation Connection Task force and Discernment Leadership Team in developing the draft document. She continued by stating that the guiding principles were to provide the church congregation with a fair, and balanced document that would also summarize the respective reasons for staying UMC vs. disaffiliating. She commented that our role as Church Council leaders is not to convince or campaign, rather to provide the information so that they may individually discern. She also requested that we not distribute the working draft beyond the Church council and Discernment Leadership Team and consultant until it has been approved and asked that we continue to respect the privacy of our members.
- She reviewed the current Discernment Leadership Team which consist of task force chairs, Church Council Chair and Lay Leader, Rev. Daniel , plus 2 additional at large members. With these additions, the Team now includes: Stacey King, Jerry Beauchamp, Debra Davis, Virginia Crawford, Bill Davis, Tudy McCann, Abby Cochran, Katie Williamson, Stacey Sullivan and Daniel Hixon (ex Officio) and supported by Consultant, Mike Gammill. Motion made by Debra Davis and seconded by Nancy Bailey to accept the recent additions to the Discernment Leadership Team. No discussion followed. Hand raise vote was taken. All approved (unanimous)
- Debra Davis then provided comments recognizing the hard work and long hours invested on developing the working draft.
- From there, Consultant, Mike Gammill facilitated this part of the meeting starting with review and discussion of the letter, followed by review and discussion of the Reasons to Stay and Reasons to Leave portions, and then finally the FAQ segments. As he went thru each segment there was discussion. Comments and suggested changes were captured on flip chart by Abby. A copy of the flip chart comments is attached. Debra Davis also captured real time on her working draft.
 - Comments and discussion from Council Members included: 1) whether we would proceed with vote regardless, 2) clarity on 2/3rd congregation vote, 3) add statements in reasons to stay about the hierarchy and checks and balances of UMC, diversity of people, 4) clarity on trust clause, ability of church to currently sell properties, 5) local church authority ,5) beliefs on apportionments in the future, 6) availability of small group session later in the evening, 7) timing of church conference vote being set by DS, 8) who is entitled to vote (Jerry noted professing members at the time we send request to vote), 9) name change in the event of

- disaffiliation and removal of cross and flame symbols, 10) update information on disaffiliation cost (est. now probably on high side. To be updated before vote)
- Updates on Task Force Membership. Doug Cochran requested to be removed from Affiliation Option team and John Ritchies has been added. It was clarified that there is not and significant work going on with this team at this time, however they are in place to help answer any possible questions on options from congregation. Claire Mott indicated she is available to be on Administrative Team
- Stacey then reviewed key next step of sending the working document to DS for her input and assistance on some of questions noted. Then the Discernment Leadership Team will meet to review and discuss suggested changes to the document. That meeting will be held mid next week. Ultimate approval of the document will rest with the church council.
- Motion was made by Nancy Bailey that Consultant, Mike Gammil be authorized to work with DS in her review and input on the document, and to authorize the Discernment Leadership Team to update the document to address comments, suggestions and bring back to Church Council for their final approval at the next Church Council meeting (Nov.14). Martha Robinson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Hand raise vote was taken. All approved.
- Stacey concluded this part of the Agenda indicating the goal is to get the information packet out to our church members the week of Nov. 14 following Church Council approval.
- Consultant, Mike Gammill exited the Zoom call at the end of this session, complementing the Council for constructive input.
- John Piper thanked the team for their hard work on the document

V. Other Business:

- The Minutes from August 28, 2022 Special Meeting was presented. Suggested changes were submitted in advance by Claire Mott. A copy of those suggestions was presented on the screen for individuals to review along with responding changes by Stacey. Debra Davis also clarified comment made by Claire regarding the second-round table; noting that she, as facilitator decided it was more effective to replace it with the Q&A from floor to DS and Stacey and Jerry. This was done to save time and avoid duplicative efforts. Motion was made by Claire Mott to accept the Minutes with Stacey's reflected on the document and the clarification offered by Debra. Ada Lord seconded. There was no further discussion. Vote taken and all approved
- The Minutes from September 27, 2022, Church Council were presented. No changes were offered in advance of the meeting nor at the meeting. Motion made by Claire Mott to accept the Minutes as written. It was seconded by Pam Rabb. There was no discussion. No further discussion ensued. Vote taken and all approved
- Next Church Council Meeting (provisional) will be November 14 to review and seek final approval by the Church Council of the information packet.
- The Church Council Meeting will remain as slated for Nov. 29, and will include usual committee reports etc.
- Jerry Beauchamp wrapped up by asking if letter had gone out from the Church to the 17 individuals that were called. It had not but would be sent out within the week under Jerry and Daniel's signature.

- **Adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn by Joe Kelley and seconded by Mathilde McCann. There was no discussion. Vote taken and all approved

Meeting ended at 7:50 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: November 10, 2022