

# St. Francisville United Methodist Church

Special Meeting of Church Council: August 28, 2022

## MEETING MINUTES

Church Council was properly notified to Church Council (CC) members via email from Church Council Chair, Stacey King on August 24, 2022. Agenda for the meeting was sent to CC members on August 25, 2022 from Council Chair. Members of SFUMC were further notified of the meeting and that it was open to church members on August 24, 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
Lauren Daniel	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	Michael Clinton Sullivan

### Church Council Members Absent:

Haley Green

-Sign-up sheet attached

### Minutes Presented in Order of Agenda Topics:

Meeting began at 4:00 pm

- 1. Opening Prayer & Comments:** The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Hixon. Comments on the meeting significance were followed by Lay Leader, Jerry Beauchamp and then Council Chair, Stacey King
- 2. Today's Meeting (Stacey King)**
  - Presented the Agenda. Motion made by Pam Rabb to accept the Agenda and Meeting Purpose reflected on Agenda. Motion seconded by Brenda Ard. Voice Vote taken. Unanimously approved.
  - Roll Call of Council Members accomplished via sign in sheet which also included guests (see attached).
  - Minutes from March 26, 2022 and July 24, 2022 Church Council Meetings were presented for review by Recording Secretary. Motion made by John Piper to accept said minutes. Motion seconded by Michael Sullivan and Brenda Ard. Voice Vote taken. Unanimously approved.
  - Roster of Church Council Members were presented (see attached) for ratification and amendment as needed to include individuals appointed to TBD positions identified in list of record in District Office and to also confirm that all said Council Members are voting members. Motion made by Michael Sullivan to accept the roster of Council Members reflected in the attached and that they are all deemed voting members of the Church Council. Motion seconded by Pam Rabb. Voice Vote taken. Unanimously approved

### 3. Ground Rules & Centering:

- Debra Davis serving as Facilitator for this Meeting provided Ground Rules. No objections noted.
- Virginia Crawford, Worship Committee Chair led us in a centering exercise based on Eph 4: 1-5. It was a silent spiritual reflection exercise.

### 4. New Information Since Last Meeting and SFUMC Timeline Review

- Rev. Hixon highlighted significant events since our July 24, 2022, CC meeting and other key dates.
- Stacey King presented a Timeline reflecting key actions to date in our SFUMC relating to affiliation/disaffiliation moving forward if decision taken to proceed with church conference vote. She also presented a Go Forward Planning Slide if we move into further discernment. She asked for volunteer recommendations for 5 Discernment Task Forces being established. She requested suggestions be emailed to her. See attached slide pack for information presented by her.

### 5. Guest Comments: The following church members asked to address the Church Council. See attached list of guest speakers.

- John Richie: A copy of his written speech was provided and is attached
- Karen Berman: A copy of his written speech was provided and is attached
- Bill Davis: A copy of her written speech was provided and is attached
- Leisa Comeaux: A copy of her written speech was provided and is attached
- Amy Betts: A copy of her written speech was provided and is attached
- Ella McKinney
- Abby Cochran
- Doug Cochran

### 6. Straw Poll Results and Membership Overview (Debra Davis)

- Reviewed straw poll sent out to members on August 20, 2022, asking (anonymous responses) if they felt they needed further information to vote whether to disaffiliate Y or N; and if so, provide written description of additional information desired.
- Response to straw poll was 80 individuals. Of the 80, 11% or 9 individuals voted No, they did not have enough information. Of the 80, 89% or 71 individuals voted Yes, they had enough information.
- See attached slide presented by Debra summarizing the above information.
- Debra then provided an overview of how many members appearing on our rolls, being 607 and reported to District Office in Jan. 22, how many we have mailing information for, and how many are active participants in the church.
- She summarized the steps necessary per District Superintendent input to notify members. She asked for volunteers to help with finding addresses and preparing mail out notices.

### 7. Round Table Discussion (Facilitated by Debra Davis)

Seven groups were established. They were asked to share their views on comments from Guest Speakers, Straw Poll and what they have been hearing otherwise from church members. They were asked to also capture outstanding questions. These items were posted on flip charts, and all had an opportunity to review.

### 8. Panel Q&A Session of Rev. Curwick, Jerry Beauchamp, and Stacey King to answer any further questions. Rev. Curwick fielded most of the questions which were centered around the following: how apportionments may change as a result of disaffiliations in the Conference, the cost to disaffiliate in

2022 and 2023, clergy vs. church decision regarding affiliation, the number of churches in Rev. Curwick's districts currently in discernment process, the timeline and schedule for voting in 2022 vs. 2023 and the pros and cons of voting in 2022 vs waiting until 2023. The recording of the Q&A portion of the meeting is available for review.

9. Church Council Members Claire Mott and John Piper spoke before the council.

10. Church Council Vote (Stacey).

- A ballot was prepared in advance of the meeting to be used by Church Council members on whether to proceed with requesting a church conference vote on affiliation/disaffiliation in time for Special Annual Conference session to be held in Nov. '22. This was in line with the key purpose of the Aug. 28 meeting. The ballot was approved in advance by Jerry, Stacey and our DS, Jan Curwick. A copy of that ballot is attached for your background. As indicated, it provide for a YES or NO vote on the matter. However, after the presentations by individuals and round table discussions, Jerry and Stacey, and then the DS, discussed the matter offline and decided it would be in the better interest to provide the option to either have the church conference in time for the Nov.'22 session *or* defer a church conference vote until Spring '22. Therefore, it was determined from that discussion that instead of the previously prepared ballot vote, we would instead proceed with a two-part vote, with the first VOTE (VOTE 1) described below, and if it passes by majority or more then proceed with a second vote on timing (VOTE 2), described below
  - Vote 1: Should/should not there be a church conference vote (ie. Church members decide) on affiliation/ disaffiliate (as opposed to the Church Council).

And if a majority or more vote YES, then proceed with Vote 2, and if NO, then stop

- Vote 2: Should the church conference vote be held in Fall'22 or Spring '23.
- Stacey advised the Church Council of the two-part vote in which DS would count the first vote and it if passes then the second part of the vote would be taken. Church Council members were given a note card to indicate their vote—YES or NO (anonymously) and hand the votes to DS to count. She counted the votes and announced there were 20 YES votes and 4 NO votes, thereby the matter would be decided by a church conference vote. Then, Stacey announced that given that Vote 1 passed, we will proceed with the second vote (Vote 2) to be handled in the same fashion— indicate on your note card Fall/F or Spring /S and hand into the DS for her to count. Aside for some clarification, there was no request for discussion. The DS counted the votes and announced that for VOTE 2 there were 15 votes for Spring'23 and 9 votes for Fall '22. Stacey announced the results of that VOTE 2. Then Virginia Crawford made a motion to accept the two-part vote results and the process used, which was seconded by Mathilde McCann. There was no request for discussion, or any objection made. A Hand Raise Vote of that motion was by council members was taken and it passed by greater than majority of council members present.

11. Closing Prayer

12. Adjourn: Motion made by Sam Rosso to adjourn, seconded by Pam Rabb. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 7:38 pm.

Audio and video recordings of most 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: September 21, 2022