

St. Francisville United Methodist Church
Special Meeting of Church Council: October 11, 2022
MEETING MINUTES

Church Council was properly noticed to Church Council (CC) members via email from Church Council Chair, Stacey King on October 7, 2022. Agenda for the meeting was sent to CC members on October 11, 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:

Brenda Ard	Nancy Bailey	Jerry Beauchamp	Virginia Crawford
Daniel Hixon	Linda Holmes	Debra Davis (via Zoom)	
Ada Lord	Joe Kelley	Neal King	Cathy Howard
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:

Lauren Daniel Michael Clinton Sullivan

Meeting began at 5:20 pm

Minutes Presented in Order of Agenda Topics:

- 1. Opening Prayer & Comments:** The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Daniel Hixon. John Piper lit a candle as a reminder of Christ's presence. Jerry Beauchamp announced the UMC website with the STAY information. Matt Paxton clarified his email from the previous week regarding the email vote on the consultant. Haley Green shared her feelings regarding the church and the current discernment. Danielle Ritchie also shared her feelings regarding the church split. Amanda McKinney shared her feelings on the potential split from UMC. Joe Kelley shared Michael Clinton Sullivan's email response to the vote to hire a consultant. Pam Rabb expressed her feelings as well. John Piper addressed the council about getting back on the agenda. Linda Holmes spoke about her feelings regarding the potential split. Virginia Crawford shared her feelings. Claire Mott shared her feelings on the potential split and her son Ethan's feelings along with her issues with the email vote not following Robert's Rules, no opportunity to object to voting method. Brenda Ard shared her feelings.
2. Stacey King asked for a motion to proceed with agenda and move more discussion to the end of the meeting. Motion made by John Piper, seconded by Sam Rosso. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Stacey King advised that the Discernment Task Force Reports would be moved to the end of the meeting.
4. Rev. Daniel thanked those present for sharing their feelings and opinions. The request to add another member to the Discernment Task Force Leadership Team. He asked for a vote on adding Abby Cochran to the Discernment Task Force Leadership Team as an at large member to bring balance. Nancy Bailey asked for clarification of the team and its members. Amanda McKinney and Haley Green asked if we need to put the request to participate in the DTF to the entire church membership. John

Piper made a motion to accept Abby Cochran to the DTFLT as an at large member, Amanda McKinney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Stacey King asked for a motion to move the Discernment Task Force items to the end of the meeting. Motion made by John Piper, seconded by Martha Robertson. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Stacey King asked to discuss the Consultant Vote via email. Jerry Beauchamp asked to table the email vote on October 5, 2022, and Claire Mott seconded. Jerry explained his reason for tabling the vote until Church Council can meet in person. Claire Mott clarified that we need to take up a discussion regarding the consultant vote. Stacey clarified that we are voting to affirm October 5, 2022, vote. Jerry Beauchamp clarified there was not motion made originally so he feels we need a motion to vote. Stacey asked Jerry for motion to affirm the Oct. 5 consultant vote in order to open floor for discussion. Joe Kelley said he understood that we would wait until after the holidays to decide on one of the consultants, Stacey advised that was not part of the vote in last meeting. Stacey clarified that it was to try to get Craig Gilliam to give us time to interview him for which he advised in earlier call and email to Stacey and Jerry that he was booked up and not available until Jan/Feb '23.
7. Haley Green tried to help clarify the contact with the other consultant, Gilliam, and his lack of interest without being secured with a \$4000.00 deposit. Jerry agreed and gave the details on the email contents between Gilliam, Stacey and himself. Jerry confirmed that was his understanding as well.
8. There was debate on the exactly what his response implied.
9. Amanda McKinney expressed that her email vote was to have another option for a consultant not just Mike Gammill.
10. Stacey asked if we could make a motion to figure out what we are going to talk about.
11. Sam Rosso made a motion to proceed with the tally of votes via email, Nancy Bailey seconded. All in favor via hand count exceeded majority.
12. Claire Mott corrected that the objections need to be asked for and tallied. Mathilde McCann stated that we need to count the opposing votes. 11 votes in favor, 9 votes opposed. Daniel and Stacey did not vote. Motion to hire consultant passed.
13. Stacey asked to open the floor for discussion.
14. Amanda stated that we need to do all votes for Church Council in person not via email. Amanda McKinney motioned to vote only in person for Church Council. Nancy Bailey seconded.
15. Doug Cochran stated that the BOD states CC mtg vote must not be via email. Steve McKinney read the BOD on open CC meetings. Vote is not needed due to BOD rules.
16. Stacey asked for further discussion open on the floor.
17. Ada asked that the 4000.00 up front to Gilliam should go to the food bank.
18. Matt Paxton shared his opinion that Mike Gammill would be a good consultant having done work for other churches. He reiterated that some want to hear from Craig or someone else they could interview. He expressed his feeling that having this process happen sooner rather than later would be better for the health and wellbeing of the members of the church.
19. Haley Green spoke about the job of the consultant and the direction that we want to go as a church family. She feels we are polarized, and that the consultant's job is to help us come together. His job is to determine our mission and path, be neutral and guide us. She went on to share her initial feelings regarding hiring a consultant and how she has come to feel it will be beneficial and valuable to us.

20. Theresa Stevens stated that at one time she had an agreement for the services of Craig Gilliam. Stacey clarified that it was not going to be signed off on until it came to Church Council. Theresa asked why we did not go forward with him. Stacey stated the issues at that time were the money and Jan referring him. Theresa stated that Gammill is a similar cost so why did we not hire him and who spoke to him. Stacey advised that she and Debra had earlier conversations with the thought that Debra could assist Craig. She further clarified that when we got the draft agreement, we were anticipating a Fall vote and his process was better fit if we were earlier in process, like June for us. We would need to modify the process at best, which he was reluctant.
21. Mathilde McCann stated that the process so far has been damaging and that the idea of hiring a consultant is important to help us through this process that is the least damaging to us as a church family.
22. Nancy Bailey spoke about the importance of the timing of the process. She expects that any consultant should keep his opinions out of it. Keep tight reigns on his neutrality and get the process going very quickly.
23. John Piper reiterated the consultant should be neutral.
24. Virginia Crawford stated that it is important for the consultant to ask questions that may seem pointed.
25. Debra Davis spoke to the timing of the issue. A letter was sent to the church stating that the vote was delayed to the spring. A month and a half later our church family still do not have information. Having a consultant will help speed up this process. Her task force team is bogged down with road blocks and he would help the process.
26. Jerry Beauchamp stated that whoever the consultant is we must get the entire church family involved. Multiple members spoke of the role the consultant would take in getting church members involved. Jerry then stated that the consultant will listen and set things up for us.
27. Linda Holmes questioned the process he would put in place.
28. Stacey asked for a motion to vote on the consultant.
29. Questions were posed about what the vote was for. Claire Mott stated that we do not need to reaffirm the email vote as Sam motioned because we decided not to vote via email in Church Council.
30. Debra Davis made a motion to move forward with hiring Mike Gammill for the church at this present time. Seconded by Martha Robertson seconded.
31. Stacey suggested we do by ballot. Claire asked if we should use a ballot instead of hands because its secret. Stacey stated that the final vote will be via ballot.
32. Cards were passed out and instructed to write yes or no on the card. Yes is to hire. No is to not hire.
33. Votes were collected. Mathilde McCann asked Haley Green to assist with the vote count.
34. Theresa asked that they be read out loud. Mathilde McCann read out loud each vote. She then counted out loud the yes votes then the no votes. She offered for anyone to come count.
35. Stacey pronounced the vote passed to hire Mike Gammill 15 in favor, 7 opposed.
36. Stacey introduced Mike Gammill into the meeting via Zoom.
37. Mike discussed his process, potential timeline and how to involve as many people as possible. He answered numerous questions from the Church Council members. (Recording available).
38. Approval of August 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes-time was given for minutes with corrections to be reviewed by members independently. Corrections were given and a motion made by Claire Mott to

correct the minutes and table until the next meeting, seconded by Sam Rosso. Vote unanimously approved.

39. Stacey announced future Church Council meetings on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 and Tuesday, November 29, 2022.
40. Team reports were given according to the agenda. Virginia Crawford shared her Discernment Prayer Team plans going forward including Prayer & Meditation on Wednesday evenings and a bible study on discernment. Debra Davis shared an update on her Congregation Communication Team and invited anyone to join. Mathilde McCann explained the role and tasks of the Administrative Team.
41. The issue of a complaint regarding phone calls made by volunteers for the church was brought up by Abby Cochran. Brenda Ard explained her role in helping with the phone calls and her objective was to get updated contact information, and one of the individuals sought information from her. Abby stated that the lists be gotten back and those that were contacted be reached out to. Mathilde McCann stated that the volunteer activity was stopped, and that task would be handled internally by Tonia Metz. She then asked who Abby thought should reach out to these people and she stated possibly Daniel and/or the consultant. Daniel offered a solution with details to address the issue. Abby agreed that something needs to be done and she will discuss with Daniel.
42. Theresa asked about legal tasks being done to disaffiliate. Stacey stated that only property record research had been done kicked off by local attorney. It was kicked off when we were going for Fall vote to meet requirements provide by the DS.
43. Adjourn: Motion made by Joe Kelley to adjourn, seconded by Mathilde McCann. Unanimously 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: October 31, 2022