

## St. Francisville United Methodist Church (SFUMC)

### Special Church Council Meeting: February 6, 2023

#### MINUTES

SFUMC Church Council was properly noticed to Church Council (CC) members of the meeting via email dated February 3, 2023, from church office on behalf Church Council Chair, Stacey King. Additional meeting materials were provided to CC via email on February 4 and then morning of February 6. Consultant, Mike Gammill was included in these emails and attended the meeting via zoom. He facilitated the review and discussion on the Congregation Survey results. The meeting was held in person in the SFUMC's Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. It was open to all professing members of the Church and were provided a facilitated opportunity to ask questions or make a comment regarding a Motion topic on the table prior to CC voting on such item. The Minutes of this meeting as set forth below are hereby certified by Recording Secretary, Mathilde McCann.

**Church Council Members Present:** See attached sign-up sheet.

**Discernment Team Present:** See attached sign-up sheet. (Note: Theresa Stevens attended via Zoom)

**Guests:** See attached sign-up sheet

#### Minutes Presented in Order of Agenda Topics

1. Welcome & Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:25 by Stacey King, Church Council Chair.
2. Opening Prayer: Rev. Hixon opened us in Prayer.
3. Agenda, Meeting Materials, Objectives, Meeting Format: Stacey King reviewed the agenda and materials being made available to the Church Council which are attached. She highlighted the key objectives of the meeting were: 1) review Congregation Survey results, 2) based on that review, determine whether or not to proceed with requesting of the La. UMC Conference a SFUMC church conference vote for disaffiliation under Paragraph 2553, 3) assuming a decision to proceed with the church conference vote, review and approve letter to Rev. Jan Curwick requesting church conference vote, and 4) discuss and approve Key Next Steps (Part 2).

Stacey advised that the meeting was being recorded and that Consultant, Mike Gammill would lead discussion on Survey results. Guest members were provided the opportunity to ask a question by submitting in writing to a designated CC member who in turn would text it to Mike for him to read out loud before responding. For other agenda topics, she advised that guest members would be allowed to ask question or make a comment according to the conversation guidelines provided to attendees. However, as the meeting proceeded, guests were allowed to ask questions verbally of the consultant and the DS and to address the CC.

Stacey advised that a draft version of the Minutes for this meeting has been provided and will be updated to reflect decisions taken. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting will be sought at the end of the meeting so that it can be submitted to the District Superintendent with other materials required to request a church conference vote. A recording of the meeting will be made available to SFUMC members on request.

A Motion was made by Cathy Howard and seconded by John Piper to accept the agenda, meeting objectives/format/guidelines described above.

A Hand Raise vote was taken and there were 12 Yays , 4 Nays, 0 Abstain. The Motion passed.

4. Congregation Survey Results: Consultant, Mike Gammill reviewed the Survey results. Discussions followed on the results themselves, and related implications and making results available to the Congregation. A summary of the results including the consultant's reflections is attached. Church Council members & guests questioned the consultant and DS regarding survey results and implications.
5. Decision on Church Conference Vote and Materials: The CC then proceeded to discuss whether (or not) to proceed with a request to the La. Conference of UMC/District Superintendent for a church conference vote to disaffiliate (or not) under Paragraph 2553. Discussion centered around the reasons to allow or not allow the vote to take place. The letter requesting such vote along with submittal materials were reviewed and discussed. The DS shared updated materials to be included and the letter will be revised to reflect inclusion of those items. (Note: Materials provided to CC members prior to the meeting and are attached).

Motion #1 was made by Nancy Bailey and seconded by Brenda Ard to proceed with requesting a church conference vote whether or not to disaffiliate under Paragraph 2553.

A subsequent motion (#2) was made by Jerry Beauchamp and seconded by Amanda McKinney to accept Theresa's email vote. The motion passed with 24 Yays and 1 Nay.

A Hand Raise vote on Motion #1 was taken and there was 14 Yays, 10 Nays, and 1 Abstain. Motion passed.

A follow up motion was made by John Piper and seconded by Brenda Ard to authorize submittal of the revised letter requesting the DS to call the church charge conference to set the vote and to send revised materials required by La. UMC to proceed with church conference vote.

Hand raise vote: 18 Yays, 4 Nays, 0 Abstain. Motion passed.

6. Approval of Part 1 Minutes of the Feb.6, 2023 Meeting: The Minutes from this meeting were updated and reviewed by CC members on the tv screen. A Motion was made by Martha Robertson and seconded by Virginia Crawford to accept these Minutes with the following modifications noted below:

- Attach sign-in sheets for CC members and guests
- Attach survey results summary
- Reference discussion was held

A Hand Raise vote on the above Motion and there was 14 Yays, 2 Nays and 2 Abstains. Motion passed.

Claire Mott made a motion and Nancy Bailey seconded that we postpone part 2 of the agenda for 2 weeks.

Hand raise vote: 15 Yays, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain.

Neal King made a motion to adjourn Part 1 of the meeting and Tudy McCann seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Part 1 of Meeting ended at 8:12 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: February 6, 2023