



**University Park United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
August 26, 2024
Gathering Area**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Church Council Members in attendance: Joe Stobaugh, Emma Williams, Lary Hooten, Ann Parker, Jillian Bunn, Diane Brooks, Lauri Hainsfurther, Lee Wiley, Thomas Wainscott, Dub Newman, Early Dennison, Scott Gregory, Constance Harp and Joe Brannon.

WELCOME

Joe Stobaugh welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

OPENING Prayer

Joe opened the meeting in prayer.

GO-Around Question

Joe asked everyone to introduce themselves and share their favorite Olympic sport.

NOMINATIONS Request

Joe shared that the Nominations committee has met twice. He thanked Jillian Bunn for serving as co-chair. He requested Church Council members to submit nominations to him or Jillian. Those members we think will serve faithfully. Lee Wiley asked what qualifications a member must have to be nominated. Joe responded that the member must attend regularly and give financially.

CHARGE Council

Emma Williams announced that the Charge Council date is set for November 17 at 3:00. Joe added that Church Council is Charge Council and everyone needs to attend and hear about what God is doing through UPUMC.

CAPITAL Campaign Update

Joe said we had a great training last week. Through the grace of God and committee members commitment, we have met our 2.5 million goal and have increased the goal to 4 million! The four week Gathering Together worship series kicks off Sunday, September 8 for The Next Generation. September 15 is Music For The Soul and September 22 is for Our Communities. The last Sunday of the campaign is September 29 to Celebrate and Commit. There will be one worship services at 9:45 followed by a shared meal celebration at 11:00. Joe encouraged everyone to talk among their peers. Dub Newman said significant gifts might warrant naming rights with the recommended minimum gift of \$350,000 or seventy-five percent of the project cost, whichever is higher. Dub made a motion to establish that as a recommendation. Joe asked for discussion. Thomas Wainscott asked how many naming rights will be offered and Dub said they were not ready to answer that now. Lee said this threshold might cause some members to stretch their giving. Thomas asked if we

were willing to rename projects like the Caldwell Room and the table in the sanctuary. Joe Brannon seconded the motion and all voted in approval. Joe asked members to rally people to what God is doing at UPUMC. It is important as leaders to talk up what is happening here. We had twenty kids at the Youth lock-in and great attendance at the 11:00 service. He asked, "How do we encourage members to invite their friends?" We need to spread the good news of what God is doing at our church. He said it was a blessing to be in ministry with everyone.

PPRC Update

Ann Parker announced that PPTC will meet after the Church Council meeting and three open staff positions will be discussed: facility manager, communications director and pastoral care. Jennifer Stitchcomb is serving as communications director through the end of the year and Diane Brooks is helping with pastoral care. Dub suggested the facilities manager should begin November 1 and he would shadow him until the first of next year when plans to retire. He recommended employing a search firm to identify qualified candidates. Lee suggested the facility manager have contracting experience. Thomas said we needed a strong candidate so needs will be timely addressed. Scott Gregory asked the anticipated salary for a qualified candidate and Dub said between \$90,000 and \$105,000. Dub shared that based on all we are doing now, we need someone to maintain the investment. Joe said Ezri Gomez is a candidate for ministry and will come before PPRC tonight.

LAY Leader Update

Jillian's Bunn shared that on June 2, we honored Constance Harp and Larry George at the 11:00 service, followed by a reception. On June 23, Betsy Hickman's years of service to the Children's Ministry was shared by Gloria Thomas including a reception following the 11:00 service. On June 30, G2G was help with a summer camp theme. VBS was held June 10-14. On August 11, a reception was held to welcome Ellie Ford as our new Children's Minister. Books will be mailed to members on the Capital Campaign. Joe shared that Ellie's stepfather died suddenly and she is in Nashville with her family for the service tomorrow. We will send flowers from the church and pray for her. Ellie is a very gracious, responsible and serious teammate. She will return September 8 for the children's Bible presentation.

FINANCE Update

Joe Brannon said this is the lowest giving point of the year. The fourth quarter is the best time of giving. We planned to have a deficit through the end of July. Giving is \$95,000 more than we planned. The \$40,000 deficit is ahead of budget. Our 2024 deficit is \$83,000 more than last year. Revenues are up \$100,000 more than last year. Debt service is \$79,000 more, insurance \$34,000 and salaries \$30,000 more than last year. Joe praised Constance Harp for her work as well as Dub, Thomas and Lee and the generosity of the membership.

TRUSTEES Update

Regarding maintenance, Dub said the lawn was beginning to come in thanks to Doug Smellage. Masonry, brick work and power washing all went well. Thomas Wainscott passed around a rusted item representing the recent water problem with backup sewage. The line was cleared so the water problem was resolved. Blockage was found between the bathrooms in the sewer. The floor tile could not be replaced. A 5' by 5' by 5' hole was dug to cut and replace the sewer line which may cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Lee Wiley said the work upstairs on the east wing above the WDS for Project Transformation offices is way ahead of schedule by a month. It should

be completed by the end of next week. Sunday School classes should be back in session soon. PT could move in by mid October possibly. Dub said meetings with GSF are taking place to finalize plans and budget on front entrance, Children's Atrium, Fellowship Hall and the music room. He said the next phase of the sanctuary sprinkling process will be in January or February. A sub-down sprinkler system will be more manageable. Pre-permitting meetings will take place with the city. The organ is completely sprinkled, but not the Narthex.

Joe asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May Church Council meeting and Dub moved accordingly. All approved.

Emma Williams closed the meeting in prayer.