

First United Methodist Church
Hickory, NC
ONE CHURCH Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2023

The First United Methodist Church One Church team met at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, 2023, in the church's chapel. Those in attendance were: Jim Whitworth, Marshall Montgomery, Margaret Wannemacher, Sandy Jahn, Debbie Hinkle, David Ashwell, Dan Hall, Jemma Gregoire, Sandra McCallum, Terry Creasman, Holly Page, Wes Bridges, Pam Huss, Cindy King, Roger Bradford, Heather Landry, Paul Christy, Jennifer Forrester, and Jenny Kistler.

Chairman Holly Page presided. Paul Christy provided the opening prayer at 3:05 p.m.

Pam Huss moved that minutes of the April meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

Paul gave an update on the Christmas flood repairs: The carpet squares are in, and all but one Sunday School classroom is completed. He encouraged everyone to take a look at the new flooring in the Christian Life Center. Both elevators have new floor covering. The preschool wing has new LVP floor covering, which was paid for by the preschool. The craft room has new tile floor covering and will receive a new sink and cabinets. Servpro will be back this week to clean "everything from the kitchen to the Trinity classroom." Two hundred eight new chairs have been purchased. They stack 30-chairs high. We're still attempting to sell the remaining green chairs. Heather volunteered that the youth can help to move any chairs to classrooms if needed. We have not yet purchased nets for pickleball, and the volley ball net needs to be replaced.

Paul gave the following report regarding the finances having to do with the flood repairs: The insurance company has paid about \$200,000 and still owes about \$175,000. We have paid \$25,000 for the new CLC flooring; insurance will pay \$38,000; donations will cover the remaining amount. We have not yet received a statement for the remainder of the CLC floor. The insurance company has not yet paid the drywall bill. The \$25,000 electrician and \$10,000 trim (Jack Carmichael) bills have been paid. Church Southern Mutual Insurance hires independent adjusters to handle claims. Although working with the adjuster has been difficult, Robert Broome has interceded effectively between the church (mostly Dana Chrismon) and the adjuster. Servpro has offered a quote of \$10,000 to do a final cleaning. It is hoped that it will not cost the church anything to make all of the necessary repairs as a result of the flood.

Jennifer provided information about the Foster Empowerment Program, which will provide young adults aging out of foster care with an affordable place to live plus provide mentoring to assist them in becoming functioning, productive members of society. She spoke

of the need, since 10 to 15 of these young adults age out of the foster system in Catawba County each year. She also reported that Jamie Brown, Director of Sipe's Orchard Home, has stated that the biggest obstacle he faces when youth age out of his program is finding affordable, safe, helpful places for them to live. Guidelines for residents were distributed to One Church members via email, and Jennifer had responded to the resulting questions asked by members. She indicated that mentors are prepared to begin to assist in the areas of finance, health and wellness, and healthy home practices. She distributed proposed budget information regarding funds that could be expected from the church for the year July 1, 2023-July 1, 2024 as follows:

Projected Cost

Rent Subsidy	\$1200	It is thought that this project will cost the church minimally since the residents will pay rent, the church will receive grants, and contributions have been offered.
Power	\$1200	
Internet	\$264	
Misc Support	<u>\$600</u>	
Total	\$3264	

The proposal is to rent the two-bedroom vacant apartment to two individuals. The four apartments that are currently rented bring in \$3,415. With each of the two individuals renting the vacant apartment for \$300 each, and the church subsidizing \$100 each month, the overall total received would then be \$4115 plus some grant money. The current monthly mortgage payment for the apartments is \$3,022 which will be raised to \$3,218 after August 18th. The overage would then equal \$897.00 monthly. (In response to a question, the overage goes into an account for apartment maintenance.) According to Jim Whitworth, Finance Chairman, the total amount of the mortgage to be considered when assessing the affordability of this program is only the amount paid for the apartments - \$330,000. Jennifer has been advised that we have received a grant from the WNConference which will pay \$125 per month. She has also been advised that we have been approved for a grant from the Catawba Valley District but does not yet know the amount. A grant will be sought from the NC Council of Churches as well.

Pam Huss moved that we move ahead with the program. The motion was seconded. Roger Bradford moved the following amendment: "The approval and implementation of the Foster Empowerment Program are contingent upon the following: 1) the authorization and calling of a church conference by the District Superintendent with proper notification of the congregation for the presentation of the program and acknowledgement of the change in the timing of the use of the apartments for ministry/missions contrary to the approval given for the purchase of the apartments by the Church Council on April 5, 2022, and church conference on May 11, 2022. There is to be a motion, second, discussion, and vote by the church conference approving this change; 2) a favorable vote by the church conference at this meeting is required before the program is implemented; 3) minutes of the church conference are to be taken by the One Church secretary and made available to the congregation." The motion was seconded. Following discussion, a secret ballot was taken resulting in a tie, the chairman voted, and the amendment was approved.

The District Superintendent will be asked to approve the calling of a church conference following worship on Sunday, June 25.

The members then voted on the existing motion to move ahead with the program. The motion carried with a majority “yes” vote, and one “no” vote.

Wes Bridges provided the report from the Staff Parish Relations Committee: 1) Margaret Wannemacher has been appointed to the church by the WNCConference to serve as the Minister of Congregational Care. Her appointment will provide FUMC with an additional delegate to Annual Conference next year. She has agreed to a salary and will not receive additional benefits. 2) Emily Fisher is resigning as Communications Director at the end of June. The committee has interviewed several candidates and will report to the Council when a decision is made.

Debbie Hinkle reported from the Worship Committee that announcements had been published regarding replacing and repairing the Chrismons. The committee is working on replacing the paraments in the sanctuary and the chapel.

Jenny Kistler reported that The Vine worship is taking place in the garden and, at times, in the Community Room. The bluegrass team will be playing at an event at Annual Conference this week.

Trustee Chairman Terry Creasman announced that 1) new sinks and flooring have been placed in the bathrooms on the first floor. A console will be put in the ladies room. 2) the columbarium is in poor shape. Southern Landscaping will work in that area. Its cost is \$4,000. 3) Terry has located a 15-passenger van (with dual wheels and not diesel fueled) in Florida at a cost of \$56,900. It is being held for us for 30 days. Terry was directed to publicize the need for the van to see if funds can be raised to purchase it.

Jim Whitworth reported that our current financial health is “not good.” April figures showed \$8,900 operating cash on hand. The good news is that giving is up by about \$2,000 each week. Marshall Montgomery, Treasurer, reported on a recent Sunday’s receipts which were the third highest for the year. He stated further that the gulf between giving and expenditures is at \$57,700 in 2023.

Dan Hall, Endowment Chairman, indicated that he did not have an up-to-date report on endowment fund investments at this time. He has, however, opened a \$100,000 CD paying 5+ percent, and the funds held by the church in the endowment operating account total \$19,938. Dan reported further that \$10,000 in scholarships were recently awarded to six students (4 high school seniors, and 2 current college students).

Heather Landry announced that youth backyard Bible studies begin this week. COOL will take place at the end of the month.

Margaret Wannemacher, Mature Methodists, announced that 25 people are signed up to travel to the Bluffs Restaurant and the Blue Ridge Music Center next Monday, 6/19.

Paul distributed copies of the following (copies attached):

- Caring Corner Financial Procedures

- Policies and Procedures for Credit Card Use for FUMC, Hickory

- Guidelines for the PDF (Paul indicated that \$9,000 was spent this year, and the balance in the fund is approximately \$18,000.)

- Analysis of Revenues and Expenses, January to May 2023

Holly announced that the next regular meeting of One Church will be held on July 16 and reminded members that, with the District Superintendent's approval, a church conference will be held in two weeks.

Jennifer closed the meeting with a prayer at 4:57 p.m.

Sandy Jahn, Sec.

