

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church
Church Council Minutes
June 15, 2015

Chair Sonny Morton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., with members of the Mount Vernon Foundation Board joining the Council.

Attorney Robert (Bob) Vaughn explained that in the years since the Foundation was set up, there have been changes in the law and in the way the Foundation disburses money. He suggested that the Foundation Board consider adjusting its articles of federation, since the foundation now seems to operate as a "support organization" for the church; revisiting the bylaws and looking at the "conflicts policy"; checking for a nondiscrimination policy in the scholarships area; and implementing better communication between the Church Council and the Foundation Board.

Barry Foster led the Council in prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Beth Bauman (Children & Youth)

The youth's New York study trip – themed "The Beloved Community" – was wonderful, and there were no mishaps.

For the Crossroads mission trip in July, one more adult is needed, to assist with cooking.

Vacation Bible School is next week, under the excellent leadership of Beth deAristizabal.

Children's House was recently evaluated by Smart Beginnings and given a 4 Star rating (out of 5 stars; this is the highest possible rating for us because of some physical limitations of our facility).

Tim Navis (**Music**): Many good things have been happening in past months: the children's spring musical, the Easter service, and the music fundraiser, which raised over \$2,000. He is reorganizing the music library, and all the handbells are being refurbished this summer.

Budge Kent, **Treasurer**: He will write an article for the next newsletter on wills/estates giving.

Tom Underwood (**Property**): In addition to routine maintenance issues, several heating and air conditioning repairs were made (report on file). Cleaning by FCS and groundskeeping by Raywood are going well. The committee will address some issues at the parsonage soon.

Sonny (**Council Chair**): Children's Ministry Campaign: \$18,550 so far. A transfer of \$16,000 from the Dot Rich fund to the church operations account has been made.

Richard Turner (**Foundation President**): The Foundation has approved grant requests for \$4,000–scholarships; \$2,000–Children's House; \$2,000–Youth program; \$1500–Missions (Stop Hunger Now); \$1,000–Children's House; \$3,500–Music program.

Dan Waters (**Missions**) said we still plan to do a Stop Hunger Now event with Trinity Baptist Church. Great turnout at the Green Street Picnic, where the Mount Vernon cookies were a success.

Lindsay Payne (**Children's House Board**): They are rearranging the classrooms to accommodate growth in infant/toddler enrollment.

Alana Mitchell (**Young Adult Council**): They hope to schedule a cookout/pool party this summer; the church picnic will be Sept. 13.

Bill Smith (**At Large**): Boy Scout Troop 300, which meets at Mount Vernon, was recently named the top troop in this large district, and now is seen as the standard for the other troops.

Barry Foster: The Finance Committee will meet in two weeks to wrap up the Children's Ministry Campaign and determine how much of the proceeds can be used for a Children's House scholarship.

Our own Tobias Lutz will be licensed as a local lay pastor at the Annual Conference on June 20.

Our church delegate for Conference is Melissa Herke, and Beth Bauman is a district delegate.

–Lin Benefield

Present: Beth Bauman, Barry Foster, Sonny Morton, Tom Underwood, Richard Turner, Lindsay Payne, Alana Mitchell, Margaret Scott, Fran Ashby, Pat Maurakis, Catherine Bendall, Leah Cooter, Tim Navis, Bill Booker, Bill Smith, Martha Jo Hodges, Budge Kent, Dan Waters, Lin Benefield. For the Foundation Board: Mary Franks, Ann Williamson, Beth deAristizabal, John Ranson, George Brooks, Jimmy Anglea