

Church Council Minutes
September 21, 2015
Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

Chair Sonny Morton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and announced a called Council meeting on October 19 at 7:00 p.m., to approve recommendations for Charge Conference.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as corrected, and Barry Foster led the Council in prayer.

Staff and Committee Reports

Beth Bauman (**Children & Youth**):

- All regular programs have started back up.
- The annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Oct. 4, and this year some of the funds will be used for the Syrian refugee crisis.
- A reception to celebrate the marriage of Lude Labieville (Haitian student at Averett University) and Delma Pierre will be held after Sunday worship in late October.
- Children's Sabbath will be observed on Nov. 15, with children leading the service and presenting a project to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Tim Navis (**Music**):

- Mount Vernon's handbells are back from being refurbished, for the first time in many years – possibly the first time since they were purchased.
- Member Jean Vernon has donated new timpani.
- A new Orff/handbell ensemble for kids to learn music is planned for Wednesday nights.
- Our young adults are forming a praise team.
- On Dec. 6 both worship services will be combined for "Hanging of the Greens."
- The annual service of "Nine Lessons and Carols" will be on Dec. 13.
- Our children's Christmas program will be on Dec. 16: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

Tom Underwood (**Property**):

- Summer brought numerous problems with and repairs to air conditioning units in various parts of the building.
- The moisture problem in the crawl space at the parsonage was addressed and is improving.
- We experimented with cheaper paper towels but they didn't work well, and we went back to the originals for now.
- We made some improvements in the Children's House and Sunday school classrooms.
- We removed the broken concrete and asphalt at the fellowship hall entrance and replaced it; we also replaced the worn carpet in the fellowship hall foyer.
(See Property Committee Report, on file, for details.)

Linwood Wright (**Finance**):

- The financial picture is somewhat better than it had been; we have received \$33,000 from the Dot Rich fund and \$20,000 from the Children's campaign.
- Each Sunday in October we will focus on stewardship, emphasizing the positive, and eliminating the negative (the shortfall).

Richard Turner (**Staff/Parish Relations**):

The committee will meet on Oct. 5 to consider employee health plans and staff compensation, and will make recommendations to the Finance Committee.

Sam Newell (**Worship**):

- A letter will go out to all church members, in hopes of getting more people involved in our worship and in all aspects of church, as well as educating newer members on ways they can get involved.

- We now have “Visitor” cards in the pew racks – the red books with attendance pads are gone.
- We are investigating Web-casting our worship services.

Gary Benefield (Evangelism):

- Programs for Wednesdays through the end of the year are lined up, with lots of variety.
- We are in need of cooks for Wednesday dinners, as well as more people on the serving and clean-up teams.

Melissa Herke (Young Adults):

- Cathy Hawkins and Melissa will provide the message on Young Adult Sunday. A new praise band is forming.
- The annual picnic went well, with about 110 people attending.

Fran Ashby (Memorials):

Funds are available. To request, submit a letter, explaining how the requested item would benefit the church. If you have questions, speak to any of the three committee members: Fran, Mary Franks, and Joyce Fuquay.

Lindsay Payne (Children’s House Board):

- The new year for the preschool began on September 1, and Children’s House is full in every class, with a waiting list for some classes. Five new staff have been hired.
- The Chili Cook-off fundraiser will be on Nov. 18, and they will need donated desserts.
- Children’s House has its first scholarship child, in the threes/fours class.

Linwood Wright commented that, when the Smart Beginnings Board met recently, they recognized Mount Vernon’s Children’s House for its outstanding program.

Other Business

Sonny Morton: There is now no official representative from the Mount Vernon Foundation on the Church Council.

After discussion, a motion to “Create a position on the Church Council for a member of the Foundation” was made and approved unanimously.

Barry Foster: Good things are going on!

- We will call a Leadership Development and Nominations Committee meeting soon, and will be sending out letters to all who are currently serving on committees.
- Dr. and Mrs. Chris Broaddus plan to join the church on Oct. 18, and possibly the Haighs, too.
- The Waggoners will be moving to Stratford House soon. ... Elsie Slayton is now living at Brookdale. ... Pete Brown has asked for our prayers; please no visits, food, or phone calls.
- For anyone who is interested, Susan Foster’s concert at Old Salem will be on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

–Lin Benefield

Present: Beth Bauman, Barry Foster, Sonny Morton, Linwood Wright, Tom Underwood, Richard Turner, Lindsay Payne, Melissa Herke, Gary Benefield, Margaret Scott, Fran Ashby, Pat Maurakis, Catherine Bendall, Leah Cooter, Tim Navis, Bill Smith, Martha Jo Hodges, Budge Kent, Lin Benefield.