

**Mount Vernon United Methodist Church**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**December 15, 2014**

Chair Sonny Morton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and Barry Foster led the Council in prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Barry Foster presented the slate of lay leaders for 2015. He thanked David Fuquay for six years of service as chair of the Finance Committee and pointed out two new committee chairs for 2015: Linwood Wright for Finance and Sam Newell for Worship. The lay leadership slate for 2015 was approved unanimously.

David Fuquay (Finance Chair) presented the financial report through November 30, 2014, and the proposed budget for 2015 (reports on file). He noted that 116 pledges for a total of \$344,932.39 have been received so far (in 2014, there were 126 pledges for \$375,761.93).

Since the proposed budget for 2015 contains a large deficit, Richard Turner (Staff/Parish Chair) recommended that the position of sexton be eliminated and replaced with contract janitorial and landscaping services, with a potential saving of \$14,000 per year. After discussion, Budge Kent made a **motion that the sexton position be continued through March 31, 2015, and quotes for contract janitorial and landscaping work be obtained in January.** Margaret Scott seconded the motion, which **passed unanimously.**

Sonny Morton agreed to oversee meetings of Property and Worship Committees and staff including Children's House in January, to determine what parts of the sexton position cannot be done by the contract janitorial and landscape services, and how to deal with those tasks (e.g., opening and closing the church on Sundays and for funerals, ringing the steeple bell, etc.).

Barry Foster proposed changing Leadership Day (which has been held on a Saturday morning in January for the past few years) to a Sunday in January, starting after church with a light lunch. Council agreed, and set the date for January 25, from 12:30 till 3 p.m. for all committee members.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

*-Lin Benefield*

*Present: Sonny Morton, Barry Foster, Linwood Wright, Gary Benefield, Beth Bauman, Tim Navis, Lin Benefield, David Fuquay, Margaret Scott, Catherine Bendall, Martha Jo Hodges, Tom Underwood, Leah Cooter, Richard Turner, Bill Smith, Budge Kent*