**Davis United Methodist Church**

***We are an inclusive community committed to living and teaching the love of Jesus Christ***

**Church Council Meeting- December 22, 2016**

**In Attendance**: Cid Barcellos, Joe Archer, Paul Grench, Susie O’Bryant, Joyce Smuda, Janice Morand, Dick Dowell, John Knight Pastor Brandon, Kathy Schinski, Louanne Horsfield, John Uhte, Zora Fowler, Marge Matoba (note taker), Carol Jewell (leader)

**Blessing** - Reading from Jan Richardson’s “Night Vision.” by Carol Jewell

**Minutes** unanimously approved by Council members

**Workers’ Compensation coverage of volunteers:**

Susie O’Bryant received a notice from Burger & Jones that we need a resolution to cover volunteers by provision 3363.6 (a) of the Calif. Labor Code. Resolution was approved by Church Council.

**Current financial information:** Susie O’Bryant

Profit & Loss Budget Performance--Pledges added more in Dec. to Nov’s total, so now we only need $4000 more to be where we need to be.

* Susie went over details of the Balance Sheet, Assets, Liabilities and Equity.
* She also said the solar buyout will be done in person. Generally we’re doing well and our financial processes are sound and wise.
* Susie needs an assistant treasurer to take Susan Padgett’s place. Nominating committee will continue to look for someone.

**Structural fiscal situation**: Joe Archer

* We are dependent on about 100 pledging units, so we feel it if someone moves, dies or just doesn’t give as much.
* We again plan to spend more than we will take in.
* Proposed church budget for next year is balanced but some of it is covered ($31,000) by non-budgeted reserve. We’re using it now to get us through our year while we wait for extra money to come in. This is probably the last year we can do this, then we’ll take the reserve to lower than one month’s expenses, which would be imprudent.
* If we don’t get new income, cuts will have to be made next year.
* Many expenses are fixed and cannot be lowered.
* Others, such as the various ministries, are essential to our church, but not so expensive.
* Buildings and Grounds and Staff are the only things left to cut. Two choices in 2018: increase giving, or decrease spending in those two categories.
* We would like there to be a 3 month reserve ($82,000), but after this year it’ll be more like a two month reserve.

Joe went through the Budget section by section. Most items were in line with last year, no surprises. A few things were explained:

* COLAs will be given to staff, but not more hours.
* Worship and Music—one time expense to repair the grand piano.
* Will save money on operating expenses because of the solar buyout

Bottom line: we are short $31,000 which will be covered by reserves.

**Notes from Mary Anne**:

* Finance Committee needs to communicate about the budget situation throughout the year, so no one gets surprised when we have a deficit. Could be included in quarterly giving statements with graphs updates.
* Need to anticipate, if we don’t see the prospect for increased income, need to make staff cuts earlier than Jan. (i.e. September) because that’s when the program year begins.

There was some discussion about where our church lies in terms of staffing. Pastor Brandon was thinking of requesting an ad hoc committee to talk about restructuring staffing in general. This would be a research/study group to find out the options.

Church Council approved the budget and thanked Joe and Susie for their hard work and clear presentation.

**Special Offerings schedule for 2017:** Paul Grench

* It will be thesame as last year
* Focus on non-profits that work in our region, with a few exceptions like Doctors without Borders.
* Church Council approved Service and Justice’s schedule of special offerings.

**Adoption of a Quick Response mechanism** needed to respondto social actions/endorsements on behalf of the Church: Pastor Brandon

—Need a few (3 or 4) advisors who know the church well enough that they could consider the effect of an action by the Pastor on various groups. It could possibly be the lay leaders. Brandon asks that CC members talk to him about people who might be good advisors.

**Transition Workshop/Leader Orientation**: Pastor Brandon Austin

* Saturday, February 25, 10:00 to 3:00
* Dynamics of transitions and tools to help when encountering difficulties
* Orientation for those new to leadership—experienced officers + new ones.

**New Church Council chairperson for 2017** - Sue Woods was nominated and accepted with no other nominations.

**Calendar of upcoming events**

* January 8--State of the Church address
* January 15th - Service & Justice Fair
* January 29 - UMW Sunday
* January 29 - Celebration of Abraham (Mary Anne will do Circle Guidelines with that group)

**Miscellaneous Information:**

* **Annual Conference Year-end Report Form** Pastor Brandon Austin passed out the forms for people to give input. Due at end of January.
* **Financial Secretaries**: Zora is stepping down. Sarah and Brian Williams and Catherine Jones will be taking over.
* **A large anonymous check to pay for the rest of the cost of the acoustic system** was given to the Church.
* **Labyrinth walk** for Winter Solstice had about 20 people.
* **Salsa dancing** starting mid-late January on Sunday afternoons for 8 weeks.

Pastor Brandon gave the closing prayer.

**Next meeting: January 25, 2017**