



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF OVIEDO

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2021

7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall & Zoom

Call to Order:

Chairman, David Evans, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and welcomed all members to the quarterly Administrative Council meeting. A copy of the “Attendance Sheet” for this meeting is attached to these minutes for the file. Registered were 13 members for combined in-person and via Zoom. A copy of the “Agenda” is attached for the file.

I. Opening Prayer: Prayer by Senior Pastor, Brian James.

Devotion: David Evans

John 1: 1. Devotion from The Trouble with Truth by Rob Renfroe, “Balancing Truth and Grace”.

II. Business:

A. Approval of Minutes from the January 2021 meeting.

Motion by Richard Jerman: To accept the minutes of the January 25, 2021, meeting of the Administrative Council as written. Seconded by Frankie Godwin. Vote called. All in favor.

B. Business Area Reports & Requests:

1. Finance Committee/Treasurer – Richard Jerman/Kevin Kranz.

Richard reviewed the report prepared by Kevin Kranz for 2/28/21. The books have not yet been completed and he will follow up with a final report when the books are closed. Copies of the Income/Expense Summary, Funding Summary, and a cumulative Under One Campaign report are filed with these minutes.

In addition, Richard reported that P.P.P. funds of \$124,000 for 2021 were received.

Statement received from Kevin Kranz, Treasurer:

A couple quick notes and I will otherwise defer to Richard to determine what he wants to highlight for the meeting tonight:

1. The large cash shortfall (\$77,969.58 YTD “Net Total”) as of 02/28/21 is in part a function of the annual hazard/liability insurance premium we paid in January – that was nearly \$60,000. We were also running behind our “expected” rate of giving, at least as of 02/28. That changed in early March when we had a very generous gift from a member. Our YTD net should look much better at March month-end.

2. The UM Foundation decreased the rate on our loan from 4.25% to 4.00 % as of the beginning of the year. We had been paying interest-only payments for several months (May 2020 through January 2021) as

an accommodation offered by the Foundation but began making principal and interest payments again in February. The rate decrease has resulted in nearly \$400 more of our regular payment going to principal each month rather than interest – so some good news there!

2. SPRC – Frankie Godwin

The Conference requires that the Staff Parish Relations Committee review and update the Youth Protection Policy on an annual basis, and then report that we have done so on March 31 of each year. You may recall that they also now require that volunteers and staff take youth protection training annually as opposed to every five years which was the previous policy. We thank Kraig Lenius who shepherds this process for us.

On January 4, Staff Parish reaffirmed our policy, so tonight we bring it to Administrative Council for your approval.

Motion by SPRC: To approve the Youth Protection Policy for 2021. Vote called. All in favor.

3. Trustees – Brian Boyington

No meeting was held in February. The next meeting is planned for April. The Trustees have organized a church clean-up day for Saturday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mary Scott reported that updating of the parsonage is continuing with painters this week and the landscaping has been completed. David Evans commented that the market value on the property has increased.

4. Lay Leaders – Frankie Godwin/Mark Ayala – no report

5. UMW – Angela Relyea – no report

6. UMM – Bill Dickson – no report

David Evans reported that the men’s group is working to plan a quarterly golf get-together to raise awareness and invite the neighbors.

7. Children & Families – Kathryn Halterman – no report

8. Children’s Council – Jessica Poulin – no report

9. Youth Council – Carl Cline – no report

10. Administration & Staff – Charlene Davis

Charlene announced that the staff is working hard to plan Holy Week. On Wednesday, March 23, a luncheon will be held for the staff, sponsored by Senior Pastor Brian James. A new copier will be delivered to the church office this week. A fire inspection was performed this week and all issues have been resolved. Carl Cline is the new cemetery officer and is doing a fine job with all field work.

IV. Pastor’s Reports:

1. Pastor of Mission Engagement & Contemporary Worship, Patina Ripkey:

Going great with missions and training for Human Trafficking. A mission with Harbor Hope International will take place April 16-17. Work continues on the grounds of Palm Valley. Patina is happy to see more people attending worship services. She leads a Bible study on Tuesday night with a group of five women, and soon will start a Wednesday night group for new people.

2. Senior Pastor, Rev. Brian James:

The Holy Week schedule is listed on the website, in the Sunday bulletin, and in the Friday email. There will be an event each day of the week. There will be a Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. After Easter, Brian will hold a model FLOW group on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. More information to follow.

Both pastors and church leadership feel it is important for the church to move forward – “Updated Worship Re-entry Plan”. The following motion was presented by Senior Pastor, Brian James:

Discussion by the pastoral staff: Last Easter Sunday in 2020, in reaction to the growing Covid-19 pandemic, we held our first virtual service. A small group made up of our pastors and essential personnel gathered in the Main Sanctuary, and many of you gathered around screens of varying sizes to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus.

Throughout COVID-19, our Pastors, Staff, and Lay Leadership has taken counsel and studied carefully from a number of resources, including recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and other church resources. We are grateful for access to so many streams of information and expertise. We have also found that there is a very wide difference in how locations, businesses, organizations, and churches (as well as individuals) have prepared and responded to public gatherings and new routines.

When Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, readjusted how businesses and houses of worship were able to gather with revised guidelines and protocols, we felt that we could adapt our protocols and procedures in ways that continue to be safe, wise, and worshipful. Our goal continues to be holding public worship that follows thoughtful and appropriate precautions.

Our church is open for worship!

Motion by Pastoral Staff: First United Methodist Church of Oviedo Updated Protocols and Procedures:

Beginning Easter Weekend (Sat. April 3rd/Sun. April 4th), First United Methodist Church has adopted a revised Covid-19 Protocol and Standards in regard to public worship and gathering:

- **We will continue to provide an in-person contemporary service on Saturday nights at 6 PM. Masks will be required for this service. Please note this service is not livestreamed. Nursery will be available.**
- **On Sunday mornings, the doors to the sanctuary will be open for seating 20 minutes prior to each service. This is to allow for cleaning before each service.**
- **We strongly encourage the wearing of masks when entering and leaving the facility.**
- **Once seated, the wearing of masks is optional (there will be separate sections for those wishing to be masked or unmasked).**
- **Seating will be such that every other row (marked 9 AM & 11 AM) will be filled according to the service you are attending.**
- **Families can sit together, but reasonable social distancing is requested to continue.**
- **There will be Nursery and Kid’s Ministry activities during the 9 AM service. Please note that First Kids will continue to use their own established protocols until further notice.**
- **11 AM service will have Nursery only.**
- **Ushers will offer any additional explanations if needed.**
- **We will continue to livestream both our 9 AM and 11 AM worship services.**

- **Overflow seating on Easter will be in the Fellowship Hall with the service livestreamed at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Motion seconded by Brian Boyington.**

Much discussion was held among the members with the above motion agreed upon.

Vote called. All in favor.

Council Chairman, David Evans, complimented both pastors on their leadership. Also, Damien Harrington was thanked for all of his hard work and skills in technical video and sound for the church. A warm round of applause was given by all present.

V. Announcement of Upcoming Meeting:

Next scheduled meeting, April 26. You will be notified if the meeting will be held.

VI. Closing Benediction – David Evans

John Wesley quote. “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Lange
Recording Secretary
First United Methodist Church of Oviedo, Inc.