

Signal Crest UMC Church Council Minutes

On April 24, 2022, Signal Crest UMC Church Council met at 7:00 pm at the Church with some members attending via Zoom.

Attendees

In Person: Debbie Adams, Henry Allen, Cindy Deere, Randy Evans, Mike Garvich, Katie Hines, Paul Jensen, Jeff Kelle, Josh Kilbourne, Jason Luna, Jeff Norwood, BW Ruffner, Kristy Stewart, Bill Thornton, Marti Wayland, George Wilkerson, Heather Wyatt.

Via Zoom: Maynard Allison, Rachel Dow, Chamar Drane, Rebecca Ducote, Doranne Lane.

Welcome/Opening Comments – BW Ruffner

Pastor Josh opened the meeting with prayer. Council Chairperson BW Ruffner made opening remarks regarding the meeting agenda.

Approval of March Minutes

Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Bill Thornton and seconded by Jeff Norwood. Motion carried.

Devotion and Review of Book Study - Josh Kilbourne

Pastor Kilbourne led discussion from Chapter Four of **Pursuing God's Will Together** by Ruth Haley Barton. This chapter focuses on the importance of spiritual community for church leadership (as compared to teamwork). The most important thing we bring to the table is our relationship with Christ and we should strive to move beyond teamwork to a spiritual community, the difference being rather than assembling around a task we should gather around a person, Christ, present through us with the Holy Spirit and listen to his direction. Many Church Council members asked how, as a committee, we develop this given the amount of turnover on the committee each year due to the Methodist process of church leadership. Many ideas were discussed to help foster a sense of spiritual community that the council can consider.

Discussion of Roof Repair – Mike Garvich, Jeff Norwood, Bill Thornton

Mike Garvich, Trustees Chair, shared that Trustees received bids back from several companies on repairing the flat roof and the Sanctuary roof. Tri-State bids have been selected by Trustees as the company to move forward with for the flat roof. The need to repair the flat roof is more urgent at this time than the Sanctuary roof. The bid for flat roof is \$268,000 with a 30-year warranty and will be paid for in 3 installments of about \$100,000 each. Trustees and Finance have also agreed that in our planning of the roof replacement, we will add a 10% contingency in case of the project going over the bid. They plan to start first of August and the project will take approximately 2 months to complete. Church Council approved the bid from Tri-State roofing for the replacement of the flat roof as recommended by Trustees via an email vote on 4/27/22.

At this point in the conversation, we began discussions on how to move forward financially with paying for the roof. Jeff Norwood, Treasurer, shared that we have already received contributions totaling about \$60,000 to go towards the roof replacement. In addition, we have approximately \$47,000 in the building and memorial funds. Trustees can request that this money go toward the roof replacement. Given that, we have the first installment covered should the request by Trustees be approved by Church Council. As

of Friday, April 22, we had \$429,970 in our operating account. Church Council voted in February to not have this account go below \$150,000 but that would also leave some money available for the roof replacement for Church Council consideration. Given this information, we feel like we have a gap of \$100,000 to pay for the flat roof replacement. Jeff then also shared that giving has been trending downward this year with a gap of approximately \$31,000 between giving and expenses for the first quarter. Given this trend, Church Council will determine what amount out of the operating account they are comfortable using toward the flat roof replacement.

Bill Thornton, Associate Pastor, then lead the council in a discussion of if we should enter into a capital campaign and if so, should it just be for the roof replacement, including the Sanctuary roof, and should we roll our current debt (\$1,048,318.74) into the campaign as well. What could this church do in ministry if we did not have to pay the mortgage each month which is over \$10,000? Think about what the church could do with an extra \$120,000 a year to use toward ministry vs. paying of debt? Jeff Norwood also stated that whatever is raised in a Capital Campaign would only be used for the purposes of the campaign. We have worked hard to ensure our tracking and accounting procedures are in place to ensure this. Bill asked the council to begin discerning what they think is the best approach to take and we will be discussing our options at future meetings.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Norwood

Attachment: 2022 First Quarter Financial Statement

Finance – Marti Wayland

Marti Wayland, Finance Chair, shared that as a church we raised \$17,000 to go to Ukrainian relief efforts. This money is going to be sent to First Centenary to then be wired to United Methodist Churches in Ukraine as First Centenary has already established the necessary channels to transfer this money working with Rev. Barry Kidwell.

Staff Parish – Jason Luna

Jason Luna, Staff Parish Chair, shared that we have had a church member offer to be the Facilities Director on a voluntary basis through the end of the year. Many thanks to Jim Kreis for stepping into this role. Jim served in a similar role at Girls Preparatory School and is familiar with this line of work. Jason also shared that we have a candidate for the Administrative position replacing Kristy Stewart and is working through that hiring process now. Staff Parish met last week with Dave Graybeal and his wife, Tracy Gartmann along with District Superintendent, Reed Shell. Dave and Tracy are looking forward to being a part of Signal Crest. Dave's first Sunday will be July 3rd.

Endowment – Jeff Kelle

Jeff Kelle, Endowment Chair, shared that the internet work approved at last month's meeting has now been completed. The committee is still reviewing needs to disburse the remaining endowment proceeds from this year but did request Church Council approval to use funds from the Endowment to pay for needed repairs to the Church bus. Church Council approved \$3620 to go towards these repairs. This will leave approximately \$2540 to fund another initiative.

Church Council approved the use of the funds for repairs to the church bus via an email vote on 4/28/22.

Celebration of Ministries

Chamar Drane, Children's Team Chair shared that we are beginning to see growth again in the Children's area. We had a very successful Children's event last Wednesday evening, *Your Story Doesn't End Here* and this past Sunday, *Celebrate the Sweetness of Spring*.

Henry Allen, Youth Parent Advisory Chair, shared that youth is going well. Attendance is up. We have started a Youth Praise band and that is going well. This coming Sunday, May 1, is Youth Sunday in both services and will feature many of our youth leading worship, including the message from many of our graduating seniors and music by our Youth Bells (11 am only), Ensemble and Youth Band. We will also be hosting the Signal Crest Golf Classic on August 1st the Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club with proceeds going to assist the Youth program.

Josh Kilbourne on behalf of Darien Brevard, Scout Master, shared that they will be staining the Scout hut soon. He also shared on behalf of Andrew Chauncey, Director of Music, that music is going well. Easter was beautiful and he is grateful to be a part of Signal Crest.

Doranne Lane, Missions Chair, reiterated how grateful she is to Signal Crest for raising \$17,000 for Ukrainian relief efforts. Our Conference mission project, hygiene buckets, will begin soon. Firewood Ministry went well over the winter supporting 8 families. Mustard Tree meals are also going well and we are looking for classes or groups to serve this summer. We will feed campers at the Bethlehem Center the week of June 20-24. We also had a team fix a firewood clients roof last month.

Rebekah Ducote, Director of Discipleship, shared that we have many new faces in worship and a reminder to welcome new people. If you meet new people and get contact information, please share it with Rebekah.

The next Church Council meeting will be May 22 at 7:00 pm.

Closing

BW Ruffner adjourned the meeting with Bill Thornton leading in prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Adams**