

**Blackman United Methodist Church**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 7, 2016 - Minutes**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** *Bro. David Stockton, Betsy Williams, Jason Onks, Mike Rose, Dave Seadorf, Tiffany Striepling, Brian Striepling, Steve Wood, and Bethany McNeely*

**ABSENT/REGRETS:** *Nicole Geer, Morgen Janke, Dick Stidom, John Slocum*

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Betsy Williams called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. Brother David offered the opening prayer. Spiritual tuning was given by Betsy Williams about finding a balance in the spiritual and business aspects of life. Betsy reminded the group that it is all for God.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the December 3, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Tiffany Striepling moved to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA BUSINESS**

**Old Business**

- **Safe Sanctuaries Implementation Update** – Phil has spoken with Jen McGuire and she was not receptive to fulfilling this position. Betsy recommended that the new youth pastor fill this role. This will be finalized at the next meeting.
- **Holiday Giving Opportunities Update** – The congregation had a servant's heart this Christmas season, giving to multiple causes during the season. \$450 was given to provide clean drinking water to individuals through UMCOR, 160 lbs of beans were donated to those in need at Greenhouse Ministries, and about \$3,000 was raised during the Christmas Eve services (which will be divided between the water project and feeding the hungry in our community). The congregation also collected a tree full of hats and gloves, which Emily Mitchell will be taking to her school and possibly the school district for distribution. Bro. David thanked everyone who made the giving possible and noted hearing that it made a difference too many that gave this Christmas season.
- **Coldest Nights Update** - Tiffany Striepling spoke about due to inability to secure transportation, St. Paul's will continue to house the women's Coldest Nights Shelter. She noted how wonderful it was to see three different dominations come together to serve our brothers and sisters in need. The funds that BUMC raised will be given to Journey Home to help offset the cost for security which is needed for the shelter. Tiffany also stated that the ladies at St. Paul's were blown away by the amount and quality of giving from BUMC! Tiffany also noted that Cold Patrol was in need of sleeping bags and items to give to those individuals on the streets and she was looking further into this program. Mike Rose asked that a discussion begin about getting a church van so transportation issues would not impede future ministry opportunities. This is to be placed on the February agenda.

- 2016 Budget - Brian presented and gave an overview of the 2016 budget. He then opened the floor for discussion. Questions and clarifications were discussed. Mike stated that the music budget did not fully cover all music expenses as there would be additional costs for musicians during holidays and special events. Jason expressed concern that if last year's giving trend continued we would have an approximate \$24,000 deficient. It was stated that attendance is increasing and an increase in giving has been shown thus far in 2016. To meet our current budget giving would need to average almost \$5,600 per week (last year we averaged about \$5,245 weekly). There was a discussion on where, if anywhere, to cut funds. It was decided to keep a close look at the budget each month as Church Council is meeting monthly. Mike Rose moved to accept the presented 2016 budget, while reviewing it monthly at future meetings. Tiffany Striepling seconded the motion. Motion passed with one opposition.

### **New Business**

- Elect Church Council Co-chair & Secretary – Mike Rose volunteered to be vice chair and preside in the absence of Betsy Williams. Bro. David stated he would find a secretary from outside the committee and all agreed this was the best option.
- Trustee Chair – Bro. David stated that there was no update at this time. He stated he would reach out to Ed Kriner to see if he would stay on as the official chair and if not they would discuss and appoint a chair at the next Trustees meeting.
- Youth Director Search – Tiffany Striepling stated that interviews for a new Youth Director were going well. SPRC Has a second interview scheduled on January 10<sup>th</sup> with one of the candidates.

### **Committee Reports**

- Finance (Brian Striepling) – Brian stated that him and Bethany McNeely were working on getting the online giving and EFT options in place. The EFT should be in place by the end of next week. Bethany spoke with the group about tax deductible donations and how those donations made to specific individuals are not considered tax deductible.
- Trustees (TBD) – It was noted that the projectors and screens were getting finished. Light bulbs had been changed in the Fellowship Hall and they are looking for a small leak that CUD has notified the church about. They are working on toilets to ensure the issue is not with the toilets. There was talk about increasing the rent on the building that we currently rent to New Life Church.
- SPRC (Tiffany Striepling) – SPRC is suggesting that Mike Rose be brought to half time status, with weekly compensation of an additional \$300 per week. Tiffany brought this as a motion to the committee. David Seadorf seconded the motion. Motion passed, all were in favor and Mike abstained.
- Children's Ministry (Bethany McNeely) – Bethany talked about Children's Ministry being in need of volunteers and more individuals in the church to be a part of the Children's Ministry team.
- Youth Ministry (TBD) – Steve Janke & Kathy Stephens have stepped up in Jullie's absence, handling weekly activities. Some of the major events have been put on hold until a new Youth Director is in place, such as the Parent Meeting now being on January 17<sup>th</sup>, Youth Sunday postponed (will probably occur during Lent). Warmth in

Winter is coming up the last weekend of the month and Jason Onks has agreed to cook during the event.

- BUMM (Dave Seadorf) – The BUMM are planning a Super Bowl Sunday fundraiser in which they will take donations while watching the Super Bowl on the new screen in the Fellowship Hall. Fund raised will help Special Kids as well as different projects throughout the year. They are also working with BERT on a church clean-up day, including painting some rooms.
- Music/Arts Ministry (Mike Rose) – Mike spoke on how several are now in choir that weren't there even this time last month. The handbells will play at the Epiphany Ring, which will be held at St. Marks UMC. Mike stated it was already time to start planning the Easter music as Easter comes early this year.
- BERT/Outreach (Jason Onks) – BERT is sponsoring their annual Spaghetti Dinner next month, Valentine's weekend from 5-8 p.m. Tiffany Striepling will be looking for volunteers for this event. BERT plans to cover all expenses so that all money raised will go directly to Doors of Hope. Last year BERT planned to feed 175 at the event, and are planning for even more this year. BERT is also working with BUMM to get a work day scheduled at the church for organizing and painting. Jason reported that during the recent church blood drive the American Red Cross received 26 units of blood, which was a bit lower than last year, but still great!
- Nuture (Morgan Janke) – Morgen was not present to give a report.
- Witness (Mike Rose) – Mike noted that they need to have a Worship Team meeting in the next couple of weeks.
- Lay Leadership Committee (Bro. David) – No report, but will be looking for secretary for Church Council.
- Pastor's Report (Bro. David) – Bro. David spoke about Redeemer Classical Academy being interested in utilizing BUMC facilities during the week for their school. Some discussion was had in opposition to this occurring, one reason being that something similar was tried years prior and we are not set-up to house such an endeavor.

**Mission/Vision Process:** Jason Onks motioned that we look at this next meeting to give it the proper time needed. David Seadorf seconded the motion and all were in favor. It was discussed that the February meeting would be to look at the budget and any important information, and then focus time on mission and vision of the church.

**Next Meeting Date:** Scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to discuss, the closing prayer was offered by Betsy Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Bethany McNeely.*