

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – SANTA ROSA

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 11, 2018

The Finance Committee of Santa Rosa First United Methodist Church met on April 11, 2018. Present were: Janet Tonkin, Peg Ferrel, Joan Gates, Sam Cox, Lynn Chandler, and Mary Brunet, Church Administrator.

Sam opened the meeting with prayer.

Mary and Sam presented the March Financial reports. Including mortgage-related activity, March resulted in a deficit of \$6,863. Year-to-date, the deficit is \$10,460. Sam observed that this deficit, combined with the unusual timing of this year's Stewardship campaign, the uncertainty of projected revenue for the rest of 2018, and our intention not to conduct a catch-up" mid-year campaign makes the next few months very important for the church's finances.

It was reported that the new furnace which supplies heat to a part of the Pre-School has been installed at a lesser cost than was originally projected.

The committee continued a discussion from the March meeting concerning the accounting awkwardness of generating and expensing operational and mortgage-related activity separately. Pledges/donations to the mortgage fund go to the Bank of the West mortgage account, and all mortgage-related expenses are paid from this bank account. Yet, all mortgage-related expenses except the principal payment are expensed to the income and expense statement. The accounting for these activities could be made clearer by encouraging the congregation to make one pledge, which would include both operational and mortgage-reduction donations. The monthly financial reports could then be stated to more easily reflect all income and expenses. The committee directed Sam and Mary to explore with Pastor Blake and mortgage-reduction donors their receptivity to this change. It was also noted that church policy requires that at least six months' mortgage expenses be retained in the Bank of the West mortgage account expense as a reserve. We currently are very near to this level in the account, so it is likely we will be making some mortgage-related expenses from the operating bank account.

It was reported that the Stewardship Committee is planning a campaign to culminate on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

Committee members were encouraged to participate in the April 15 All-Church Summit, where suggestions from the Congregational Conversations will be discussed and hopefully action plans outlined.

Committee members were asked to print agenda notices, minutes and finance reports emailed prior to monthly meets for use at our meetings. A correction to Janet's email address was made.

Peg closed the meeting with prayer.

(Minutes submitted by Sam)