

Minutes of the Finance Committee
First United Methodist Church, Santa Rosa
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 — Carriage House

Present: Sam Cox (Chair), Peg Ferrel, Cynthia DiBenedetto, Joan Gates, Larry Wofford, Jack Dupre, Janet Tonkin, Lynne Garrison, George Kemmerer, Lori Sawdon, Janis Brewster

Sam Cox called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, opening prayer by Lori Sawdon

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no corrections.

Finance Report – Review of February Financial Reports

Christmas in February! We had a good income month with contributions at \$72k and significant annual pledges paid in February. Although the income is nice, it is not an indication of the year. Expenses were less than budgeted as there are several personnel opening still to be filled.

Options for Funding Trustees' Priorities

The trustees presented a report of priorities of repair items at the last church council. The finance committee has been tasked with working with the trustees to find funding options for the list presented.

Options discussed – look at requesting monies from the Foundation and Church Council. Increase the annual budget for the Trustees. We are unable to make a determination until we have the costs for the repairs. Lynne to request the Trustees obtain the costs of each required repairs and will submit the report of the Finance Committee so that a path forward can be determined.

Discussion of FUMC's Present and Future Finances

Declining Revenues – how can we deal with it? We have all had conversations about our assets and expenses. There has been discussion about the church doing some longer-range planning within the next year or so. What is our vision 5 years, 10 years, and 15 years?

The Finance Committee can lay groundwork by gathering historical data so that when a planning process takes place, the data will be available. Our situation is not unique to us. Committee members commented as follows:

1. Communications team is working to bring in new people.
2. If trends continue down, will we have to cut visions and/or mission?
3. We need facts, it is easier to make decisions when we have the facts. We need charts and future planning.
4. People give to people, not budget.
5. We need to sell ministry.
6. What is the relationship between Montgomery and Stony Point? What can we do to make the 1 church 2 campuses better?
7. What have other churches in our position done to improve?
8. What have other churches done well and not well?
9. What is our churches DNA? How do we serve our community?
10. Look at both properties, what can be done to support the neighborhood?

Sam reminded the committee that any work we do to gather historical information is for the use of other bodies doing planning. Anything beyond that is beyond our scope and role.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with a prayer.

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. April 17th, 2019 - Carriage House

Respectfully submitted by Lynne Garrison.