

Date: July 14, 2018

To: FUMC Church Council

From: Fire Relief Fund Working Committee

## **Background**

Generous people throughout the nation donated over \$112,000 in funds and gift cards to our Church during the fires. Approximately \$11,350 in donations was specifically designated to help re-establish the parsonage as a temporary home for Pastor Blake, Peggy and his parents. Over \$100,000 was donated in undesignated support for the Church and fire survivors. In the first days following the fires a little over \$17,000 was distributed to people with immediate emergency needs via the Church's Good Shepherd Fund. Gift cards were provided to people who had lost their belongings and were in urgent need of clothing and personal items. Nearly \$4,000 was also used to help defray direct costs of running the Church's shelter. After deducting the \$10,000 approved last meeting for Camp Noah, the Fire Relief Fund balance presently stands at \$62,108.64.

### The Fire Relief Fund Working Committee

In May of this year a working committee of seven people led by Norm Hardin was formed to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how the Church might distribute the remaining funds. Committee members include Norm Bryan, Janin Comiskey, Sam Cox, Diane Jackson, Amber Roberts and Pamala Stephens.

### Camp Noah

On June 27, 2018 the Committee recommended and the Church Council approved the distribution of funds in the amount of \$10,000 to cover a portion of the cost of hosting and bringing Camp Noah to our community. Camp Noah is a day camp for children whose communities have been impacted by disaster. The program provides a safe, caring and fun environment where children build resiliency skills and process their disaster and/or trauma experience through creative activities and play. Camp Noah will be held in July 2018.

### 2018 Distribution

Currently there are about twenty-five (25) regular active FUMC attendees/family units who are members or constituents who have physically lost their home or business in the 2017 fire. It is recommended that the Church extend a written invitation to all of these families expressing our love and care and inviting them to make a request for fire relief funds of up to a \$1,000. Potential recipients would be asked to respond by a certain date and all valid requests received would be granted.

It is recommended that \$1,364 be placed in the Church's Disaster Fund (3701-701) bringing that balance to \$3,000. These funds that would be immediately available for future disaster related costs. It is recommended that \$200 be used to reimburse costs associated with equipping Kevin Cox's temporary office at the Church. Kevin Cox is the head of Hope City, an organization working on assisting our community in rebuilding efforts.

## 2019 Distribution

In the fall of 2019 it is recommended that the Church extend an offer to all regular active FUMC attendees/family units who are members or constituents who became homeless by the 2017 fire, or by the conditions created by the fire, to request fire relief funds. Funds distributed for this purpose would be in an amount that would leave a minimum remaining balance of \$12,000 in the Fire Relief Fund.

## Those Serving Mid and Long Term Recovery

It is recommended that the remaining balance of \$12,000 be distributed to nonprofits and or community groups (including those of our Church) that are serving our community's mid and long term recovery needs. The organizations undertaking those efforts would be invited to request a grant from the Church.

## **Recommendation**

That the Church Council approve the fund distribution to:

- In 2018, those twenty-five (25) or so regular active FUMC attendees/family units who are members or constituents who physically lost their home or business in the 2017 fire and who respond to the Church's invitation be granted an amount of up to \$1,000.
- The Church Disaster Fund (3701-701) in the amount of \$1,364.
- Two hundred dollars (\$200) to reimburse equipping the Church office provided to Kevin Cox of Hope City.
- In 2019, those approved regular active FUMC attendees/family units who are members or constituents who became homeless by the 2017 fire or by the conditions created by the fire that have requested fire relief funds. Funds distributed for this purpose would be in an amount that would leave a minimum remaining balance of \$12,000 in the Fire Relief Fund.
- That the anticipated remaining Fire Relief Fund balance be distributed to approved nonprofits and/or community groups that are serving our community's mid and long term recovery needs.

That the Fire Relief Fund Working Committee remain intact as an oversight committee with smaller work groups that will carry out the procedures necessary to distribute the funds.