

Trinity Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
Sunday, March 24, 2024
Fellowship Hall

Church Council Voting Members in Attendance: Luky Madden, Kim Alexander, Susan Boothe, Michael Cloud, Doug de Graffenried, Clint Graham, Jimmy Love, Melanie Morgan, Mike Shipp, Cleve Stevens, Ron Whitaker

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Patricia and Bob Flournoy, Dee and Donna Belcher, Kathy Shipp, Todd Clark

Affiliation Committee Update and Decision

Luke introduced a new format for their meetings, which included the approval of minutes from the previous meeting. Clint Graham made the motion to accept the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mike Shipp. Luke also provided an update on the work of the Affiliation Committee, highlighting their progress in exploring options for the church's future. The main decision now facing them was whether to remain independent or affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. Luke emphasized the need for clarity on these options so that the congregation could make an informed decision. A document outlining the team's progress and future process will be going out after Easter. He praised Jay Guillot for his leadership in this area.

Church Affiliation and Youth Leader Search

Luke discussed the challenges of making an affiliation decision for their church, emphasizing the importance of considering potential changes and the impact it would have on their operations. He explained the need for a contingency plan in case a key member, like Brother Doug, is unexpectedly called away. Luke mentioned the ongoing work SPRC is doing to develop a contingency plan. Furthermore, he shared the ongoing search for a new youth leader and expressed optimism about God's provision for their church. No questions were raised during the discussion.

Organization's Financial Status and Maintenance Costs

Finance Chair, Jimmy Love, addressed the organization's financial status, highlighting their need for additional funding through a capital campaign, potentially exceeding \$3 million. Origin Bank, our current bank, is willing to provide financing for our lending needs. Jimmy noted the success of the previous year's pledge collection, which surpassed the target for the first time in history. He also discussed ongoing repairs and maintenance costs, acknowledging the need for increased investment in maintenance to sustain their assets. He expressed hope that their current strategy would continue to be sufficient, without anticipating a financial bailout.

Children's Wing Project Progress and Issues

Jimmy and Clint discussed the progress of the Children's Wing project, highlighting the valuable contributions from the student presentation. Luke mentioned that visualizations had been created and would be further refined by Mike Walpole's team. Doug reported that the building committee will be meeting again with Mike Walpole with hopes of a more solid financial estimate to move forward with the capital campaign. The Trustees Chair, Clint Graham, added the issues with the air

conditioning and HVAC equipment, indicating that an order has not been placed and not yet received. He further addressed a leak in the kitchen and the slow response from the gas company, as well as an outstanding capital campaign. Clint and Sam Wallace will be meeting with Byrnes Mechanical and an engineering firm to solidify the HVAC System order. The Trustees were presented with a plan for The Trinity Pavilion, which was approved by both Trustees and Finance pending fundraising for the project. Final plans will be coming as well as approval from the fire marshal for the permit to begin construction.

Equipment Upgrades and Endowment Update

Luke reported no major changes to the endowment during Endowment Chair, Bill's absence with only a \$20,000 computer replacement approved expense. He confirmed that all endowments were performing as expected without reviewing the balance sheets. Attached is a copy of the Endowment activity.

Ministry Updates and Women's Fellowship

Mike Shipp provided updates on the Outreach Ministry's activities, which included the resumption of reading sessions at Ruston Elementary, construction of ramps, and potential international mission opportunities. Recently, we were able to provide CCA with uniform shirts that were needed as well. Susan Boothe also reviewed the United Women in Faith's activities, noting that they had forty-five active members and will continue holding meetings from January to May. The group plans to have Becky Clark as the devotional speaker for the upcoming meeting. Attached to the minutes is Susan's full report. Cleve Stevens reported for College Ministry, discussing the ongoing efforts to attract more members on the tech campus.

All Staff reports were submitted and were included in the meeting packet. No old business or unfinished items were left over from the previous meeting.

Church Organizational Structure and Meetings

Luke and Doug discussed the organizational structure of the church, highlighting the importance of responsibility and accountability within the congregation. He mentioned that quarterly meetings would be held, with additional meetings possible if necessary, and expressed satisfaction with the church's leadership and committees. Lastly, Luke shared his contact details for scheduling meetings should anyone need to schedule a meeting to meet with him.

Pastor Doug closed the meeting with a prayer, reflecting on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in preparation for Easter.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Melanie Morgan

Trinity Methodist Church
March 2024 Church Council Report
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

- Trinity UWF continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month (September-May) at 10:30 A.M. in Fellowship Hall
- On January 1, 2024, Susan Boothe assumed the office of UWF president
- Forty-five women are currently listed as active members of Trinity UWF
- January 2024 meeting was canceled due to an ice storm
- February 2024 meeting
 - Attendance: 35 members
 - Rev. Doug de Graffenried offered our devotional message
 - Caleb Seney, Executive Director of MedCamps of Louisiana, presented our missions program
 - A love offering and paper goods were collected for MedCamp
- March 2024 meeting
 - Attendance: 35 members
 - Rev. Michael Cloud offered our devotional message
 - Members of the Louisiana Tech Wesley Foundation Missions Team presented our missions program
 - A love offering was received for the Wesley Missions Team
- April 2024 meeting (upcoming)
 - Rev. Becky Clark will deliver our devotional message
 - Missions program on the “5 Loaves: 2 Fish” food truck ministry will be presented by Julie Holmes
- May 2024 meeting (upcoming)
 - Rev. Micky Cloud will deliver our devotional message and a musical program
- Monthly meetings will resume in September 2024

	12/31/2023	MMKT. Balance 12/31/23	2023 YE to MMKT	Available for Use 2024	2024 Withdrawals	Remaining Balance 2024
General Endowment	\$ 3,529,926.78	\$ 322,655.83	\$ 141,197.07	\$ 463,852.90	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 443,852.90
Helen Love TV Min.	\$ 67,249.69	\$ 5,637.34	\$ 2,690.00	\$ 8,327.34	\$ -	\$ 8,327.34
Pierce Leadership	\$ 63,896.45	\$ 9,960.94	\$ 2,555.84	\$ 12,516.78	\$ -	\$ 12,516.78
Chumley	\$ 65,275.69	\$ 2,406.42	\$ 2,611.04	\$ 5,017.46	\$ -	\$ 5,017.46
Winters Library	\$ 40,174.27	\$ 2,768.59	\$ 1,606.94	\$ 4,375.53	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,625.53
Thompson Youth	\$ 2,627,902.94	\$ 277,752.06	\$ 305,116.00	\$ 382,868.06	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 361,368.06
Nelson- Youth Music	\$ 85,468.02	\$ 14,583.89	\$ 3,418.72	\$ 18,002.61	\$ -	\$ 18,002.61
Laskey/Andrews Lecture	\$ 247,439.42	\$ 83,523.17	\$ 9,897.58	\$ 93,420.75	\$ -	\$ 93,420.75
Family Life	\$ 66,238.29	\$ 13,747.27	\$ 2,649.52	\$ 16,396.79	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 14,396.79
Tri-Centennial 1976	\$ 13,837.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tri-Centennial 1984	\$ 13,342.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Barr, Carter, Richardson	\$ 71,807.76	\$ 12,105.85	\$ 2,872.32	\$ 14,978.17	\$ -	\$ 14,978.17
KW Rogers Children/Youth	\$ 86,607.90	\$ 21,322.89	\$ 3,564.32	\$ 24,887.21	\$ -	\$ 24,887.21
Bell Tower	\$ 59,653.31	\$ 17,893.81	\$ 2,346.12	\$ 20,239.93	\$ -	\$ 20,239.93
Seminary Support	\$ 97,437.28	\$ 23,350.35	\$ 3,897.48	\$ 27,247.83	\$ -	\$ 27,247.83
Annie Elise Smith Outreach						\$ 1,047,881.36

This did not get transferred during disaffiliation; will contact to UMF to resolve the issue

2024 Approved	Amount	Description	Requestor	Date Processed
Family Life	\$ 3,500.00	Illusionist	Katie Clark	3/4/2024
	\$ 2,000.00	Right Now Media	Becky Clark	1/3/2024
Winters Library	\$ 750.00	Materials group studies	Becky Clark	1/3/2024
Thompson Youth	\$ 2,500.00	Confirmation Class	Becky Clark	1/3/2024
Thompson Youth	\$ 19,000.00	50% College Min Salary		3/4/2024
General Endowment	\$ 20,000	Computer replacement	Kyle McKaskle	Approved and deposited

Approved;need signature to process