

Trinity Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
Sunday, June 9, 2024
Fellowship Hall

Church Council Voting Members in Attendance: Susan Boothe, Michael Cloud, Doug de Graffenried, Benny Denny, Trotter Hunt, Jimmy Love, Luke Madden, Bill McIntyre, Melanie Morgan, Mike Shipp, Adrienne Smith, Ron Whitaker

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Katie Clark, Teila Lee, Dee and Donne Belcher, Jay Guillot, Bob and Amanda Parker, Jimmie Shahan, Todd Clark, Catherine Ramsey, Katy Madden

The conversation centered around the governance and affiliations of the church, including a Affiliation Committee's motion to join the GMC and discussions around the church's affiliation decision, and it's timing. Speakers emphasized the need for better communication and engagement within the church and discussed the recommendation from the affiliation committee to set a date for member vote. Some speakers expressed frustration with the limited time frame for preparation, while others highlighted the potential benefits of affiliation.

Opening & Church committee reports and budget planning:

- Luke Madden asks Rev. Michael Cloud to open prayer.
- Mike Shipp makes the motion to adopt minutes from March 24 meeting as written, there was a second. Since no copy of meeting minutes was present, and enough members hadn't had a chance to read the copy emailed out, the motion was not passed.
- Jimmy Love, Luke Madden and others discuss reports and stewardship. Church finances are on-track. Currently income is ahead of budget, and the primary expense that's high is our utilities. This is due to a heater that can't be turned off for fear that it won't turn back on. It's being run in as low a level as possible until it can be replaced - presumably as a part of upcoming children's wing project. Staff and committee reports are attached.
- Trotter Hunt provided an SPR update – they are discussing SPR committee duties and policies and are working through church staff reviews in advance of this coming fall.
- Outreach committee invited David & Heather Skinner, missionaries to Japan, to speak at church Sunday. Plans for reading program re-engagement and a big pack shack event in fall are ongoing.

Affiliation Report and Discussion

- Luke Madden thanked Jay and the Affiliation Committee for their many meetings, extensive research, and for their research and service to our congregation.
- Jay provided an overview of their motion as set forward in writing. See attached. Initially, the committee had opinions all over the map concerning whether or not our church should even vote on affiliating. Extensive research was conducted by the committee, with several guiding principles – one of which was that our church should

avoid affiliating with a group involving a “trust clause”, thereby donating our property to another organization. After a lengthy process, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend that our congregation hold a vote on affiliating with the Global Methodist Church. The motion was not in need of a second and was debated extensively for the course of the meeting. It read: “The Affiliation Committee recommends setting date for Trinity members to vote on affiliation with Global Methodist Church on or before October 15th.”

- After lengthy discussion a motion was made by Trotter Hunt to change the date of the vote in mentioned motion to November 3, 2023 and was seconded by Jimmy Love. The amended motion was passed unanimously.
- Doug notified everyone that the Global Methodist Church General Conference is set for September 20-26, 2024. It will be held in Costa Rica, since their President has personally assured the GMC that visas will be issued for the African Church Conferences wanting to attend. It was the attainment of Visas that prevented the meeting not being held in the United States.
- Concerns were raised that the Book of Discipline is still transitional and may change after the September Conference as well as a desire for more information sessions and opportunities for questions from the congregation. Doug shared that the GMC had a limited agenda for it’s meeting, without the possibility of motions being raised from the floor to alter the Book of Discipline further. It is not anticipated that any parliamentary surprises will emerge from the meeting.
- Luke will make sure we – as a church - communicate information about the GMC and any doctrine/disciplinary changes to the church membership before the vote.

Action Items

- Luke Madden with the help of Benny Denny and Adrienne Smith will set procedures for how the affiliation vote will be conducted, including options for proxies, early voting, membership requirements, etc.
- The Church has disseminated all affiliation information materials to the congregation, both on the church website and to the members via mail.
- Invite interested members to attend the GMC provisional conference in June at First Methodist Shreveport to learn more.

Next steps

- Committee to develop communication plan to inform congregation about vote.

- Next Administrative Council meeting: September 8, 2022 at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall where we will finalize vote details.
- Members are invited to attend the GMC provisional conference in June at First Methodist Shreveport to learn more.

Luke Madden thanked everyone for their service and prays for God's blessing on the church as he closes the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Melanie Morgan with the help of Otter AI Software