



# First United Methodist Church

419 NE First Street, Gainesville FL 32601  
352-372-8523 <http://fumcgv.org>

*As members, we promise to be loyal to the Church and uphold it with our presence, our prayers, our gifts, our witness and our service.*

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING May 26, 2009

**Welcome**

**Devotion**

**Minutes**

**Staff Reports – *Please make special note of progress in the new priority ministries under your supervision, if any***

1. Pre-School Director – Amy Watson
2. Report on Helping Hands Clinics – Randy Stacey
3. Robert Jackson – Director of Music
4. Frank Ferreri – Children, Youth, Christian Education
5. Carl Romey – Assistant Pastor
6. Bill Yeager – Assistant Pastor
7. Harold Henderson – Senior Pastor

### **Old Business**

1. Committee Highlights – *Please be sure to cover progress in the new priority ministries under the charge of your committee as well as key ongoing and future happenings.*

2. Discussion of future priority ministries not covered by committee reports

### **New Business**

**Closing Prayer**

**Next Meeting: June 23, 2009**



## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2009

ATTENDING: Jim Nation, Leon Couch, Dr.Henderson, Tim Leslie, Robert Jackson, Frank Ferreri, Muffett Emmanuel, Barbara Kirby, Cleo Abbott, Mary White, Dan Greathouse, Kay Greathouse, Mary Kilgour, Bill Yeager, Carl Romey, Joe Willcox

Mary Kilgour presiding - Opening prayer by Dan Greathouse

Minutes of April 28, 2009 meeting approved as circulated

### STAFF REPORTS

1. Preschool Director - Amy Watson - Brief note attached
2. Helping Hands Clinic - Randy Stacey - No report
3. Director of Music - Robert Jackson - Written report attached
4. Children, Youth and Young Adults - Frank Ferreri - Written report attached
5. Assistant Pastor - Carl Romey - Written report attached
6. Assistant Pastor - Bill Yeager - Written report attached
7. Senior Pastor - Dr. Harold Henderson - Written report attached - Dr. Henderson also handed out the latest revisions of the 2009 CHURCH COUNCIL VOTING MEMBERS dated 5/25/09 - copy attached

### COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Congregational Care - Tim Leslie - Written report attached
2. Mission & Outreach - Tom & Betsy Gill - Written report attached
3. Finance - Treasurer's Report-April 2009 and copy of Balance Sheet attached

Closing prayer - Mary Kilgour

**Next meeting 7:00 PM Tuesday June 23, 2009**

Note: Minutes and full set of written reports will be available in the church office for approximately one month.

*Joe C. Willcox, Secretary*

**Mission & Outreach Committee Report May 26, 2009**  
**By: Tom and Betsy Gill**

In the month of May, the church family has raised money for various mission boxes including pastor's discretionary fund, Blankets and Tools, FUMC VBS scholarships, FL UM Children's Home and FUMC Youth Camp Scholarships (May 31). In addition, Circle 31 donated the remainder of their Christmas cookbooks (8 in total) to the M & O committee, which were sold for \$5 each. The proceeds went to the Blankets & Tools mission box. We continued working on guidelines for funding for people who want to attend short conferences, spiritual growth trainings and retreats. Lastly, we as chairs of the committee are asking for a new chair to be appointed as we will soon be moving away from Gainesville and will have to relinquish our duties.

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**First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers) Report**  
**-presented to the Church Council on May 26, 2009**

Dear Council-

I regret that I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting. Please accept this brief report.

The staff at FUMPers is in the process of wrapping up the 2008-2009 school year as we are currently involved in post planning. I will present an End of the Year report at the June meeting.

Thank you for your support of this ministry of First Church,

Amy C. Watson

Director, First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers)

[FUMPers@FUMCgmv.org](mailto:FUMPers@FUMCgmv.org)

352-373-0108

First United Methodist Church  
Council Report – May 26, 2009  
Department of Music Ministries

As I write this report I am still basking in the glow of the Wesley Hymn Festival which we shared on Sunday, May 24. What a glorious day of singing and fellowship we had. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the clergy: Harold Henderson, William Yeager, Frank Ferreri, Carl Romey, for their support, and to the musicians: Melanie Yeager, organist; Lynn Sandefur-Gardner, on the piano; the members of the chancel choir; the instrumentalists; and handbell choir members who spent numerous hours in preparation of this special day of worship and celebration. And to the congregation for their participation, without whom this day would not have been as uplifting as it was. I trust that it was a meaningful and informative day for all. I certainly know I was blessed by it.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, we shared in the Celebration Ringer's Spring Concert which was held in the Sanctuary. I would like to express my appreciation to Jenny Eckenrode for her continued ministry with this group. As she pointed out in the concert, she has been directing this group for a little over 18 years. As a volunteer, I find this to be remarkable and commendable. Her dedication to this group is noteworthy.

As we approach the summer months, both the chancel choir and Celebration Ringers will take a deserved break from rehearsals. The Chancel Choir will present its last anthem for this season on Sunday, June 14 and resume rehearsals and Sunday anthems on Sunday, August 9. The instrumental group will play on occasion as their summer schedule allows. During this time, individuals and ensembles will be filling in to provide special music on Sunday mornings.

On a personal note, I will be participating and/or teaching in several music conferences throughout the summer. In June, I will be attending a church music workshop sponsored by the Florida Chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts [June 14-19.] From there I head to Lake Junaluska to teach and assist with the handbell programming at the Music and Liturgical Arts Week sponsored by The National Fellowship June 20-26. In July, I will be staffing the National Convocation, *Imagination 2009*, as the Vendor/Exhibit Coordinator, also sponsored by the National Fellowship, in Orlando, Florida. In August, I will be teaching at the Handbell Seminar sponsored by Area IV of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Looking ahead in our Sunday Recital Series, we will be presenting Jim Hendricks in a piano recital on Sunday, August 30, 2:00 PM. To close the 2009 series, Melanie Yeager will present her first organ recital here at First Church in November. The date has not been officially set, but will either be the first or second week of November.

The annual Festival of Choirs is scheduled for October 1-4 this fall with Gere Hancock as clinician. The host church for the festival is Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The following weekend, I, along with Jenny Eckenrode and Evelyn Jones, will be attending the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinctly Bronze Advanced Handbell Festival in New Bern, North Carolina under the direction of David Davidson.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Jackson (BJ)

Frank Ferreri -- Report to Church Council -- May 26, 2009

Like most everyone else who attended Sunday's service, I'm certain, I'd like to begin my report by offering my appreciation to BJ and everyone else who was involved with Sunday's Wesley Hymn Festival. My heart was warmed and if your's wasn't, you might want to check your pulse.

This coming Sunday marks a big day in the life of our church; we will be confirming four of our youth in the 11 am service. They are Spencer and Carter Bauer, Hannah Church, and Aimee Wright. Over at University Church, the other four members of this year's class will be confirmed during their service. I've really enjoyed this class and getting to know the youth who joined us from University. Our class would have had much less energy without them. I hope to remain in contact with them for a long, long time. And I would again like to express my thanks to Rev. Yeager for organizing that development.

I have also enjoyed being a part of Rev. Romey's new direction for the Helping Hands Chapel service on Monday afternoons. There's a great new enthusiasm at the service, and the numbers have been up. I hope we'll see people from the congregation join us on Mondays -- it is well worth the 30-minute time commitment.

The Stewardship Committee is set to have its first meeting for the 2009 campaign this Sunday after worship. We are in need of new members because we are losing the Sneads and the Gills, so don't be surprised if you get a call or e-mail from Heather inviting you to join us. If you have any interest in being part of the Stewardship Committee, feel free to come to Sunday's meeting -- it won't commit you to anything and a light lunch will be provided. We'll be up in my office.

Many folks have noted and remarked about the "big ticket" items I requested on the "birthday cake" fund-raising project that BJ and the Worship Committee have put together. I would like to clarify that the costliest items I put on there are for curriculum materials for Sunday school and Wednesday night classes for all age groups. These materials are quite expensive, especially when we use DVD-based series, which are popular with both students and teachers. My hope is that we will be able to build up enough funds through this project to keep costs low for the congregation.

As a reminder, our photo directory sessions are taking place this week. If you need an appointment, please get in touch with me at your convenience.

Lastly, June 1st will mark my one-year anniversary on the job here. I'd like to thank everyone for a blessed first year; it's great to be on board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Ferreri  
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults

## **Report to Church Council – May, 2009.**

As we approach the mid-point in the calendar year, and move into the summer months, and as I have recently been given the wonderful opportunity to continue my ministry among you for another year, I wanted to share with the Church Council my perspectives on the issues and opportunities facing us as a congregation. Without being melodramatic, I think I would summarize my perspective in terms of good news and bad news. The good news is good, even very good, and the bad news is troubling.

It is not difficult to itemize the good news – increased attendances, membership increases that outstrip our losses through deaths and re-locations, a very good year completed in FUMPERS, increased volume and effectiveness in our ministry among our homeless neighbors, growth in our children and youth ministries including the scouting ministries, inspiring contributions to our worship life by our choir and musicians, enhanced scope and effectiveness in our ministry among our care partners, a record enrolment in our Wednesday night summer classes, the joint Confirmation sessions with University Church... The list goes on, and we are extremely gratified that we can be part of what God is doing in our midst and especially in the lives of the people to whom we minister in Christ's name.

We also face new opportunities, some of which are from the list of ministry priorities we developed last year, and some of which we had not foreseen in that process. High on our list of previously identified priorities, for example, is the establishment of ministry outreach among people who work around us in the downtown area during the week.

Among the new opportunities not previously identified, for example, is the fact that, during the just completed college year, increasing numbers of undergraduate students began visiting our services. Although that development will probably taper off during the summer months, there is no reason not to assume that it will resume in the Fall, since we had not taken any special steps to attract that group, which represents a significant new ministry challenge and opportunity.

The bad news is that we have no budget for any of these new developments, all of which obviously require an investment of human and financial resources. In fact, if you look at our regular reporting of financial information in the weekly bulletin, you will be aware that we are falling steadily behind budget, which means that we will not be able to maintain our present level of activity indefinitely let alone embrace new opportunities.

My purpose in developing this emphasis is not to be negative or to create panic. My purpose is to ensure that the Church Council is as fully informed as possible in relation to any issue/s that might require decision and/or leadership for the congregation.

The fundamental issue we are facing is whether we want to see the growth potential we have been experiencing in recent times maintained/expanded or not. If we do - as I certainly do; that's part of why I'm here – we need to recognize that we need to raise our income level significantly. If we believe that we have reached the limit of our income potential as a congregation, we will proceed as we are and, in effect, be opting for staff and program cuts. If we do not believe that we have reached the limit of our income potential and want to see our present growth patterns maintained and enhanced, we will need to put our collective shoulders to the wheel, increase our regular giving and explore additional ways to raise extra ministry dollars not just for the present but longer term.

The Finance Committee, which has responsibility in relation to the raising of funds as well as in relation to our expenditures, has recognized the need to be proactive in this area and has asked Jack and Pam Church to develop a plan by which we can move forward in a growth pattern. That plan, titled "Growing the Church," is close to being ready for implementation, and will be presented to the next meeting of the Finance Committee (on June 16).

There is no specific action the Church Council needs to take at this time, except to reflect on whether we want to keep growing as a church and whether we are ready for whatever steps are necessary to see that happen, by God's grace.

Harold Henderson,  
Senior Pastor.  
May 26, 2009.