

Church Council Minutes  
Messiah United Methodist Church  
Youth Center: May 21, 2018

**Opening:**

- Chair Brenda Weston called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.
- Attending: John Ailes, Lee Thompson Berson, Paul Bouley, Sherry Bouley, Tracey Briggs, Diane Halvorsen, Lee Halvorsen, Chip London, Don Moore, Peggy Tugwell, Richard Underwood, Kathy Willson, Maurice Wilson, and staff Pia Diggs, Jessica Irish, Robin Ringler and Reggie Tuck.
- Kathy Willson led the devotional.
- Minutes from the April meeting were accepted as submitted by acclaim.

**Visioning/Planning/Action:**

- **Church survey:** Reggie Tuck discussed the church survey regarding possible changes to worship and Sunday school times. The staff discussed results and constructed a second yes/no survey, testing one model with some amendments. Overall, 85 percent voted yes, they'd consider the model. Overall, just 15 percent voted no, but 28 percent of those surveyed at the 9:30 service voted no. We want to better understand the numbers and narrow the survey to families participating in Sunday school and figure out how many people we will lose if we change.
  - Diane Halvorsen reported that the worship committee met Sunday to discuss the surveys. Whether the church wants to focus on discipleship (Sunday school), change the number of services to increase the energy within the worship service or both, the takeaway is that by and large, people are open to change.
  - Reggie said the good news is that people are more committed to Messiah than the schedule, but we still want to be careful and study some more. We will not be ready to launch June 24, because when we launch, we want it to be good. Numerous aspects were discussed, including whether the Sunday school classes will generally follow the same curriculum or be different electives; how youth can be more involved in the services; whether 15 minutes is enough time to transition; how important it is to communicate what is happening via greeters, cards at the welcome center and in the pew pockets, and on the website; and how to break up the longstanding Sunday school groups so that those people can get to know more of the people on the periphery. The presentation of change as a work in progress rather than something set in stone forever was noted. Brenda said we'll come back in June with more plans.
- **Website:** The new website is up. Sunday school will be added.
- **The infrastructure rebuilding committee:** The committee has not met.
- **Simple Church:** The group met and developed a list of church ministries, which is extensive. Pia asked everyone to look over the list and add any that the committee may have missed.

**Ministries and committees:**

- **Finance:** John Ailes had nothing to add to the written report.
- **Building committee:** Paul Bouley said the Charter was sent out to the Church Council via email and was approved with 10 yeas and no nays. The next step is to communicate that to Ron Richardson and set a course to proceed. The committee will meet with 5-6 internal groups rather than hold town hall meetings.

- **Trustees:** Chip London presented his proposal for a church clean-up, slated for June 9 and 16. The plan is to send messages to each committee member to make sure everyone's artifacts are labeled and in a logical home, so other articles can be tossed.
- **Congregational Care:** Kathy Willson reported that the prayer ministry working on a prayer wall near the nurses' office.
- **Discipling:** Sherry Bouley reported that the next faith story will be June 3. Summer Sunday school for kids will be the Kids Zone. They are studying the Blueprint for Discipleship and focusing on "growing young"; the 18-29 age group is where we are falling, and that's where we put our energy.

**New Business:**

- Brenda proposed starting Church Council meetings at 7 rather than 7:30 pm. That's fine with everybody.

**Closing:**

- Reggie talked about Doug and Barbara Lord, for whom the youth center is named. He closed with a prayer thanking God for things that have happened or hope will happen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Briggs  
Recording Secretary