

Saint Mark UMC  
Church Council Minutes  
April 24, 2018

**6:30 P.M. Meeting called to order by:** Richard Nelson

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** The February, 2018 Minutes were provided to members by email since at February's meeting there were no objections that we would no longer provide hard copies at each meeting. Richard asked if there were any questions or comments about February's minutes. There were none. Richard asked for a motion to approve. A motion to approve was made by Dot Mueller and seconded by Joan Purse; all voted in favor.

Richard Nelson asked for any questions or comments on The 15 Commitments. Council was also provided a copy of Pastoral Effectiveness Agreement.

Richard Nelson again reiterated our "new format" for council meetings and explaining the "popcorn reporting" for those who wanted to provide praise, news, plans, etc. in an effort to keep the meeting flowing.

**Core Values and Leadership Development -**

Richard addressed Congregational Care. If you are a member of a small group and you know someone who has not attended in a while, reach out to them. Scott Perry said that Gary Reed started a way of tracking people who may not have attended in several weeks. Some people felt like it was the Principal calling especially if you didn't really know the person you were calling and maybe it was too formalized. The suggestion is that if that person(s) was attending your small group or Sunday School class and you had a personal relationship with that person(s), to make a phone call and let them know they are missed. Emphasized that everyone in the congregation is of value. Joan Purse commented to "not let people fall through the cracks." Richard Nelson stated that this group – Church Council – we gather as leadership of the church to make it better.

**DREW CLAYTON** addressed The 15 Commitments.

It's our choice to live above the line ("by" me) or below the line ("to" me).

Everyone read out loud together *WHEN LIFE IS LIVED BY ME* – and – *WHEN LIFE HAPPENS TO ME*.

Commitment #15 – "Gossip" –

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." – Eph. 4:29

We watched a video called [The Triangle Killer](#).

Gossip is non-productive;  
Gossip destroys teams and creates drama;  
Gossip, even though it's bad – it feels good;  
Gossip is easier since one-on-one conversations can be hard.

Talking directly to the person – develops TRUST;  
Talking directly redirects / drama reduction;  
Talking directly - not emails, texts or other social media.

If someone comes to you – gossiping – ask them "What did they say when you talked to them about it?"

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**Celebrations and Collaborations – “popcorn” reporting for March/April (since we did not meet in April):**

- John Gaston reporting for Lisa White regarding another successful Mexico Mission Trip. Thad Watkins was a key tool to direct communication for the team being able to speak fluent Spanish.
- Tommy Traynham praised successful first Modern Worship service on April 22.
- Donna Davitte praised Easter activities and services.
- Jill Mann’s praise was that Rev. Drew Clayton sent a personal handwritten letter and she talked with the person who received the letter and what it meant to him.
- Tina Nelson’s praise about Discovery Weekend and Spaghetti Dinner/Live Auction – both a great success.
- Bonnie Gaston praised Neil Segars and Kairos weekend.
- Carol Moats praised the UMW Link-Up and they were able to provide 6 blankets to take back – 1200 is the goal for Jefferson County – there are 6,183 foster children in Alabama.
- Carol Moats – Confirmation luncheon is this Sunday and UMW will be catering the lunch. Children’s Council Meeting was very positive. Help is needed for VBS.
- Thad Watkins’ praise was about Secret Church Friday night (April 20) and listening to David Platt.
- Sandy Jenkins/ELC Director provided a report – Sandy’s full report is attached for your review.
- Jane Green provided Saint Mark UMC Membership Report - Jane’s full report is attached for your review.

**COLLABORATION:**

- Ann Gipson – 97 people are registered for ReMarkAbles event this Saturday, April 28.
- Bonnie Gaston praised Ann Gipson’s scheduling events for the remainder of the year and her organization skills.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Tim Allen – Farmer’s Market is coming May 3.
- Tina Nelson reported for Ruth Miller – Children’s Musical is Sunday, May 6: “Spend Awhile on the Nile.” Everyone come and support the children.
- 8 or 9 Seniors this year.
- Youth Car Wash is May 5, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM - everyone come and bring your cars.
- Tommy Traynham – Communication Ministry Meeting. A new website design is coming.

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- Joan Purse asked for a WiFi update. Ryan Karr reported that new routers have been placed and the Password is: stmk!2011
- Drew Clayton reported that there are 6 total confirmands.
- VBS is June 24-28
- MAW is 7/8-13. Dan Cater – Youth Clinician; Ken Berg – Children’s Clinician.
- Carol Moats stated that Holiday Market workshops will continue throughout the summer if anyone is interested in coming.

**REV. DREW CLAYTON**

\$44.80

A 6-year-old girl (and her mother) came to see Drew in-between services – he said he thought this act was divine timing. The girl brought all the money she had saved in a Tupperware container. She wanted to give it all to the poor. Drew asked everyone to form into groups and discuss how we can use that mindset for helping the poor i.e. \$4.48 today; \$44.80 tomorrow; \$448.00 next year; \$4,480; \$44,800; etc.

Several groups were formed and several ideas were discussed:

- Go strictly to children – buy band instruments; buy books
- On-going involvement of children; form sub-committees/missions
- Home bound elderly, children, social media
- Food back packs; food bank; foster children
- John Mark Owen – his daughter emptied her piggy bank this past Sunday so something may be going on; money should not go to church overhead
- Get SMUMC tangibly involved; not just send money
- 44.80 Ministry / 44.80 Group / community outreach – whole congregation involved; habitat house
- There is a group called “Unless You” which is an outreach for special teen needs out of high school, training for them to contribute to society
- Stop Hunger Now program; ministry fair in parking lot – food, free haircuts, etc.
- Laura Leigh Holland read Matthew 18:4 “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” to go along with 44.80 ministry

**BUSINESS (Old and New):**

After determining there was no further business to report, Richard Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Tommy Traynham made motion; John Mark Owen 2nd motion.

The meeting was adjourned after Rev. Karr provided a prayer of dismissal.

Our next meeting will be May 22.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wood  
Recording Secretary

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