

Saint Mark UMC  
Church Council Minutes  
May 22, 2018

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

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** The April, 2018 Minutes were provided to members by email. Richard asked if there were any questions or comments about April's minutes. There were none. Richard asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Lisa Cooper; seconded by Karl Turner; 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 Culture of Positivity. Richard shared the lyrics to hymn *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* to emphasize sharing joy in ministry teams.

**DREW CLAYTON:** addressed The 15 Commitments – the church staff is in the process of working through these 15 Commitments a second time. Reiterated how gossip is can destroy and not build.

Reminder to live above the line ("by" me) - not below the line ("to" me).

Everyone read out loud together:

**1. WHEN LIFE HAPPENS TO ME:**

I commit to feeling entitled to "what's mine," resenting when it's not acknowledged in the way I want.

Example: "Finding Nemo" – seagulls – fighting over "what's mine" – choosing to be a victim.

**2. WHEN LIFE IS LIVED BY ME:**

I commit to living in appreciation, fully opening receiving and giving appreciation.

**Commitment #7 – "Appreciation" –**

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." –

Colossians 2:6 (Good work God has done in us – not just placed.)

Drew read some examples of how we deflect appreciation: the handoff to someone else; downgrade; dismissal; reciprocating. Asked for comments on how we react to others who show us appreciation, or the lack thereof. Comments ranged from making us angry (if no one seems to notice); turn it around and "thank you Lord" instead of "thanking us"; sometimes you think people want something in return; receiving appreciation is in conflict with humility; receiving appreciation with grace; give appreciation in a radical and specific way – like greeting a visitor – make eye contact.

**Celebrations and Collaborations – "popcorn" reporting for end of April/so far in May:**

- Frankie Hays - appreciated all the food that was prepared for David Schneider's funeral and there was enough food for the 200+ people who attended and had a cake and a few croissants leftover 😊

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- Ruth Miller – Children’s Musical on May 6 was a great success and if you were not able to attend, you missed a great performance.
- Liz Benninger – ALL the children know the words to every song that was sung at the Children’s Musical
- Bettye Brown – new confirmands and acolytes
- Tina Nelson – all of our graduating seniors
- Karl Turner – the leak has been fixed on the Chevy bus – we now are back to being able to use 2 buses
- Drew Clayton – Farmer’s Market began Thursday, May 3
- Richard Nelson – referred us to Finance Highlights on the back of Agenda; stated that the “May” Membership Highlights should be “April” Highlights with average worship attendance of 320 the month of April / YTD: 312
- Richard Nelson – referred us to Trustee Highlights; Frankie Hays asked about the approval of a curb cut at lower sidewalk; Paul Conner explained they are cutting down the curb to make it wheelchair friendly.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Liz Benninger – Vacation Bible School; needs volunteers / there’s something for everyone!
- Tina Nelson – Choir Tour (June 10); Homecoming Concert is June 17 (Father’s Day)
- Scott Myers – asked how we are doing on VBS evening meals – Sunday School classes are volunteering to provide meals each night of VBS; Ruth Miller provided information
- Ruth Miller – Music & Arts Week; Dan Cater is the Youth Clinician and we’ve always represented Saint Mark very well, so get your youth registered to attend
- Drew Clayton – Saint Mark is hosting “Passport Camp” Mission while our youth are on Choir Tour – we are the Bham Hub this year; there will be 33 campers (includes 4 adults); will sleep in gym and have access to Student Center for showers, etc.
- Tommy Traynham – not an official announcement, but predicts late summer launch of new website; provided Church Council a “sneak peek”; banner page; main goal is easy to use; no more than 3 clicks to get ANY information anyone will need; will have a “search button” function; we now have a main webpage and a youth webpage – it will be consolidated; Scott Wehrenburg will host our website, so we will be able to save money; will also be Smart Phone friendly – will resize when someone visits our webpage with iPhones, etc.

- Joan Purse asked how many people would have access for updating, etc. Drew said that Jane Green has volunteered to update remotely but he does not anticipate that many updates will be needed.

- Richard Nelson said that most people check out your website before they attend.

**BUSINESS (Old and New):**

After determining there was no further business to report, Richard Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn. Paul Connor made motion; Bonnie Gaston 2nd motion.

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

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We will not meet during the month of June since our normal week to meet is VBS.

Our next meeting will be July 24.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wood  
Recording Secretary