

## January 2017 Council Report

The Council Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Brad pointed us to the last sentence of James 4:2, "You do not have because you do not ask God". With this in mind, he asked each of us to identify two prayer requests that were on our hearts, one for the church, and one personal. For the church we asked for unity, leadership wisdom, passion and conviction, increasing the number of disciples, Resolute men's ministry success, financial growth, acceptance of change, and God's leading as we embark on the next phase of our Responsible Church Makeover. Personal requests included freedom from worry, salvation for family members who are not saved, guidance in planning the youth mission trip, addiction, God's leading in our lives and the lives of our children, energy and grace to enjoy grandchildren, and patience. We then joined in a silent community prayer for the person next to us, and for FCC. Brad then offered a closing prayer for the group. We encourage everyone to claim these requests, and lift them in your prayers with full faith and confidence that God will respond.

The Consent Agenda and the November Financial Report were accepted. The Dec. report was tabled due to some year-end giving that was received too late to be included. We continue to be blessed with surplus cash (income below budget but in excess of actual expenses). Jim noted that \$40,000 has been moved to our self-funded line of credit account (cash reserve) to be drawn on as needed for meeting future operating expenses.

We continued with the discussion of what constitutes a "win" for the Council according to the book 7 Practices of Effective Ministry. Brad, Kavan, Mark, and Carolyn presented a "win" statement for our consideration. "The (Council) win is to empower the staff and congregation to make disciples by seeking God's will in spiritual direction and church management." After discussion, the statement was approved unanimously. Brad will continue his effort to schedule a date for a training seminar about seeking spiritual discernment.

Kavan was approved to chair our Nominating Committee as we seek new Council candidates. To support this work, each Council member has been asked to write a brief summary attesting to what service on the Council has meant to them.

JD reported that there had been an incident involving a disruptive, inebriated man at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. While he was able to defuse the situation, this again points to the need for a formal security program. Work continues on that.

Brad, Mark, and Pat walked us through Station 19's preliminary findings regarding our "refresh the church" initiative. Pat shared statistical data that fed the report. Brad presented 4 rough draft sketches for alternative approaches to the project. We held a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of each of the options; then selected the one felt best for going forward. This will be communicated to Station 19 who will then start on preparation of more detailed drawings and cost estimates. We hope to have a final proposal ready in time to present at the March congregational meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm with Mark offering the closing prayer.