

**ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI
REV. EUGENE BOGER, PASTOR**

Finance Committee Minutes for March 21, 2023

Members Present: Pastor Eugene Boger, Oliver Peebles (Chair), Jennifer Peebles, Clara Godine, Joe Godine, Josephine Virgil, Annie L. Stennis, Mary McLendon, Marjorie Alexander, and Kim Sterdivant (Minutes)

The Chairman, Oliver Peebles, called the meeting to order and lead with a prayer.

Minutes from the previous Finance Committee meeting (February 21, 2023) were read individually.

Josephine Virgil motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Clara Godine seconded the motion. The committee voted. The motion was carried.

Treasurer Reports (see files)

Profit and Loss: (Delivered by Oliver Peebles) For the month of February, the total income is listed as \$13,779.00, the total offering is listed as \$10,345.00, the total expenses are listed as \$13,305.70, and the net operating income is listed as \$473.30.

Check Requests: (Delivered by Marjorie Alexander) The total Check Requests for the month of March is \$11,849.06. When a donor makes a contribution, the money is deposited into the general account and a check is written for that amount to the person the donor specifies. A member made a donation to pay for the World of Flowers. She deposited the money in the general account and a check was written by St. Paul to World of Flowers. The IRS payment is for a back payment of FICA and medicare taxes for Mr. Andrew Thomas. Mr. Peebles has asked the pastor to send a report at the end of each quarter to be presented to Marjorie. She will send a check to the IRS each quarter to prevent this from happening in the future.

St. Paul General Checking Account: (Delivered by Oliver Peebles) For the month of February, the total debits are \$13,280.75, total credits are \$15,633.00, and the balance on the account is \$97,857.86.

E-Giving Checking Account: (Delivered by Oliver Peebles) For the month of February, the balance on the account is \$380.35, the total credits are \$0, the total debits are \$4,524.95 with \$24.95 for fees and service charges.

Mississippi Methodist Foundation Account: (Delivered by Oliver Peebles) The balance on the foundation account for the month of February is \$148,014.87. The money in the account belongs to the church's and Maeola Turner.

Josephine Virgil made a motion to accept the Profit and Loss statement, Check requests, E-Giving account statement, General checking account statement, and the Foundation Account as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Clara Godine. The committee voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: (Clara Godine) - The PPRC had a quarterly meeting on February 28, 2023. There was an additional meeting called yesterday to discuss the music ministry. There were two parts of the discussion:

1. The reporting person in Shelia Walker's contract needs to be changed from the director of the music ministry (Mrs. Jordan) to the team.
2. The PPRC recommendation to provide an additional Sunday to Ms. Sheila Walker's contract to play on the 3rd Sunday in addition to the 2nd and 4th Sundays. In order to fund this additional Sunday each month at \$150, it was recommended that the PPRC Chairperson meet with the Worship Committee to request that they fund \$500 of the amount from their line item. It was further recommended that the Worship Committee will meet with the directors of the Eris D. Jordan Fund to request \$850 to fund this additional Sunday each month. This will be a total of \$1350 for the remainder of 2023.

The committee discussed the proposal and suggested that the PPRC address the topic with the Administrative Board.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jennifer Peebles and properly seconded by Annie L. Stennis. The committee voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Administrative Council Minutes for March 21, 2023

Members Present: Pastor Eugene Boger, Josephine Virgil (Chair), Oliver Peebles, Jennifer Peebles, Clara Godine, Joe Godine, Annie L. Stennis, Mary McLendon, Marjorie Alexander, and Kim Sterdivant (Minutes)

Chairperson, Josephine Virgil, called the Administrative Council meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

Financial Report (Delivered by Oliver Peebles):

On behalf of the Finance committee, Oliver Peebles made a motion that the Trustee reports (Profit and Loss statement, Foundation account statement, Check requests, E-Giving account statement, and the General checking account statement) that were submitted and approved by the Finance Committee also be approved by the Administrative Council. The motion was seconded by Clara Godine. The council voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was approved.

Clara Godine motioned to accept the Administrative Council minutes for February 21, 2023 as presented. Annie L. Stennis seconded the motion. The committee voted. The motion was carried.

Trustees Report (Delivered by Marjorie Alexander): The trustees met for their quarterly meeting on March 15, 2023 at 4:30pm. All unfinished business for the 2022 year is in a working progress. The key members are working to ensure that the work is completed.

1. Lawn Care: Southern Lawn Care has started back caring for the church's lawn. They will cut the lawn twice a month and we will receive an invoice after the sixth cutting.
2. Fire Extinguisher: We are in compliance. All of the extinguishers have been tagged. Two extinguishers had to be replaced.
3. Canopy - The trustees are aware of the number of senior members at St. Paul. We're looking into getting someone to come and advise on how to properly install a canopy over the handicap ramp area for rainy days.
4. Trustees Weekly Schedule - Pastor Boger requested that the trustees committee continue operating from the trustees weekly schedule for the church usage. Pastor Boger and Mrs. Virgil have copies of the schedule if anyone need it.

Notes: Annie L. Stennis thanked the trustees for their maintenance on the offering plates and stated that the offering plates are looking so much better.

Clara Godine made a motion to accept the Trustees Report as presented by Marjorie Alexander. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Peebles. The council voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was approved.

PPRC (Delivered by Clara Godine): The PPRC has met twice since the last meeting. The PPRC met for a quarterly meeting on February 28th, 2023. Three motions were passed during the meeting:

1. A motion was made and passed to approve the request of Pastor Boger to participate in a travel seminar with the North Georgia Conference to Belfast, Ireland for 7 days in the month of March 2023.
2. Another motion was passed for St. Paul and the PPRC to support Pastor Boger with a \$450 donation for his travel expenses. This item was included on the check request.
3. The third motion that was made was to approve a pulpit supply of Rev. Gerald Hudson for the 1st Sunday in March during Pastor Boger's absence.

The PPRC met in a called meeting yesterday to follow up on a discussion about the music Ministry and the void that was left due to the untimely death of our beloved Eris D. Jordan. There were two changes:

1. The wording was changed in Shelia Walker's contract. It previously stated that she reported to the director of the choir (Mrs. Jordan). It has been changed to reflect that she will now report to the pastor and the committee.
2. The PPRC is recommending that we provide an additional Sunday to Ms. Sheila Walker's contract to play on the 3rd Sunday in addition to the 2nd and 4th Sundays. A motion was made and carried to contract with Ms. Sheila Walker to play as a second musician on an additional Sunday (the third Sunday) of each month. It was recommended that in order to fund this additional Sunday each month at \$150 that the PPRC Chairperson will meet with the Worship Committee to request that they fund \$500 of the amount from their line item. It was further recommended that the Worship Committee will meet with the directors of the Eris D. Jordan Fund to request \$850 to fund this additional Sunday each month. This will be a total of \$1350 for the remainder of 2023. We prayerfully submit this request.

Notes: Mrs. Virgil suggests that the PPRC follows through on corresponding with the Worship Committee and Mrs. Jordan's Committee. After meeting with both committees, the PPRC will present it to the Finance committee for approval.

Annie L. Stennis made a motion to accept the PPRC Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Peebles. The council voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was approved.

United Women in Faith (Delivered by Jennifer Peebles): Not only do we take care of members' needs, but also globally, as well as the needs in the community. I would like to thank the ladies for giving a donation to the Meridian Housing Authority Youth Build program. This goes along with our vision for turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth locally and globally. They were very grateful and thankful. The National UWF Informative Tea will be held on March 25th at 11am at St. Peter's UMC. I texted Georgia and she said she is getting stronger everyday. Mrs. Moseley is coming along well. Reach out to these ladies to let them know how much we care and appreciate them. We are continuing take care of our sick and shut-in members. I visited Rosa White. I appreciate how you take the time to not only take care of the church business, but also our members.

United Methodist Men: No report

Sunday School / Christian Education (Delivered by Annie L. Stennis / Pastor Boger): We've had two planning meetings on having a collaborative VBS this summer. We have several churches that are willing to participate. Those churches are Pilgrim Hill, Tabernacle, St. Paul, St. Elizabeth, St. Peter's, and Wesley Chapel. We're expecting two other churches to collaborate also. Mrs. Stennis would like to recommend that St. Paul hosts the first VBS on June 5th- 7th from 5pm until 6:30pm. We will also need adult teachers, help with activities and help for the food committee. We don't have a line item for VBS so we will have to take out funds from Christian Education. We have \$1000 and will need approximately \$500 to assist. We have one church that does not have the facilities to host VBS. I would like to know if we can give them permission to use St. Paul facilities if needed. The dates as of now for June are 5-7, 12-14, and 19-21. The dates for July are 10-12 and 17-19. We're hoping to have about 50 children combined. We will also have an adult class. The endeavor is to ensure that for the months of June and July our children and adults will be partaking in spiritual growth. Everyone has expressed excitement and enthusiasm. This the start of future collaborations between our churches in the Meridian District.

Notes: For future reference, to request the use of the facilities, present it to the trustees and they can approve it for you.

A motion was made by Clara Godine and properly seconded by Jennifer Peebles to accept the Christian Education Report as presented. The committee voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was carried.

Altar Guild (Mary McLendon): The Altar guild is preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Jennifer Peebles motioned to accept the Altar Guild report as presented. Clara Godine seconded the motion. The committee voted. The motion was carried.

Kitchen: No Report

Communion Stewards (Delivered by Jennifer Peebles on behalf of Margaret Jah): Mrs. Jah has received supplies for communion and they should last for several months.

Courtesy Committee (Delivered by Jennifer Peebles): A donation was sent to Mrs. Moseley for her stay in the hospital as well as Mrs. Georgia Sims.

Clara Godine made a motion to accept the United Women of Faith, Communion Stewards, and Courtesy Committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Annie L. Stennis. The council voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was approved.

Mission (Delivered by Josephine Virgil on behalf of Daphne Darden): Daphne Darden is doing a Lent study on Tuesday at 11am. She's doing a good job teaching and keeping the students engaged.

REPORT OF THE PASTOR **(L3 Model: Loving, Learning, and Leading)**

Loving:

1. Thank you for your support and prayers during my travels to Belfast, Ireland.
2. Enhancement of Worship Experience (Online Engagement) - Find ways to engage and communicate with virtual users
3. Next Sunday, Daphne Darden has invited two ladies, Janet and Carol Barham, who will give a presentation during the worship service.

Learning:

1. We are continuing our Lent Bible Study online.

2. Daphne Darden is leading our Small Groups. Participants are engaged and it seems to be going very well.

Leading:

1. Mary McClendon and Josephine have renewed their Lay Servant certifications.
2. Daphne Darden has become newly certified as a Lay Servant.
3. FYI, there was a task force formed before Bishop Swanson transitioned out, at his request, to reevaluate and redesign MS districts so that the boundaries evenly and accurately reflect the whole of our conference. There will be a webinar on April 20th to review the progress. There will be approximately 8 districts total and the number of superintendents will be reduced by one. The boundaries of the Meridian district will change and that very well can change the dynamics of the Meridian district. Please be in prayer for the Meridian district, our church, and the MS Conference.
4. Proposal by the pastor to invite two groups to utilize the downstairs area for informational purposes on next Tuesday, March 28th at 12pm and 6pm:
 - a. The Meridian Architectural Trust Group: 12pm - Lunch and Learn for about 15 people to hear a presentation by Ed Lynch on the history and current state of the Wechsler building. St. Paul only has to provide space.
 - b. Ed Lynch (Chairperson of the Wechsler Foundation), Pastor Boger (Member of Wechsler Board), David Beckham (Consultant): 6pm - We would like to invite the community to come downstairs to hear a similar presentation and include them in the conversation of how they would like to see the building restored to best fit the needs of community.

Mary McLendon motioned to accept the request for Wechsler to use our facilities at noon and 6pm on March 28, 2023. Clara Godine seconded the motion. The committee voted. The motion was carried

Mrs. Virgil will have a call meeting with the Trustees to obtain approval.

Clara Godine made a motion to accept the Pastor's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Marjorie Alexander. The committee voted unanimously to accept the motion. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned

Pastor Boger closed the meeting with a prayer.