Pastors Report to the First United Methodist Church, Winchester, Tn Charge Conference 2020

It is would be a huge understatement to say that the church in the United States is enduring a season of change, uncertainty and at times confusion. This is true regardless of the denominational affiliation but our United Methodist Church, which traditionally have been the people who have most often reflected the concerns and tensions of society at large seems to have been front and center in these precarious times. As we try to gaze into the future, the view doesn’t present itself any clearer but may actually be even murkier.

I believe in spite of the uneasiness we are experiencing I confidently report that God is at work in Winchester First United Methodist Church. We have much to celebrate and have every reason to move into the future with hope and—dare I use the word? Excitement!

We have seen growth numerically. We have added 42 to our Baptized membership. For those unfamiliar with this roll, this is all persons who have been baptized including those who have not been confirmed. We physically baptized 6 persons.

We added 39 to our Professing Membership. These are persons who have been baptized and have professed their faith in Jesus and placed that membership in First UMC. This reflects 8 who were confirmed or were baptized at the time of their profession. Thirteen who transferred membership to our congregation from other UM Churches. Eighteen transferred from other Christian churches. I thought you might find it interesting the diversity of background. We received into our congregation: 5 Baptist, 4 Lutherans, 1 Anglican, 1 Presbyterian, 3 Roman Catholics, 1 Church of Christ and 3 from non-denominational congregations.

An audit indicates that we did not have any requests for transfers to other church, and one transfer to the Tennessee Conference as a Local Pastor, which was Rev. Wanda Spencer. We are presenting 32 names for removal by actions of charge conference. Those persons are:

**Inactive Members for Consideration of Charge Conference Action on October 29, 2019:**

 Roll # Name Date Joined How

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2684 | Burch, Jessica | 8/21/2011 | PF |
| 2682 | Burch, Kerry | 8/21/2011 | OD |
| 2683 | Burch, Rhonda (Mrs. Kerry) | 8/21/2011 | OD |
| 2739 | Butner, Tayler Dayne | 10/27/2013 | PF |
| 2740 | Butner, Tyler Douglas | 10/27/2013 | PF |
| 2725 | Habbick, Cameron "Cam" | 5/12/2013 | CT |
| 2837 | Habbick, Daniel Morgan | 3/27/2016 | PF/B |
| 2726 | Habbick, Rebecca Garren  | 5/12/2013 | CT |
| 2707 | Johnston, Matthew | 7/8/2012 | PF |
| 2748 | Olson, Dwight Wayne, Jr. | 1/19/2014 | CT |
| 2749 | Olson, Heather Lynette Horn  | 1/19/2014 | CT |
| 2751 | Olson, Mark Wayne | 1/19/2014 | CT |
| 2750 | Olson, Nathan Kyle | 1/19/2014 | CT |
| 1535 | Parks, Divia  | 3/14/1983 | PF |
| 1604 | Parks, Patricia | 7/20/1984 | PF |
| 1523 | Perry, Joyce  | 11/16/1982 | CT |
| 2003 | Peterson, Ann Drewry | 12/10/1991 | CT |
| 2004 | Peterson, Carl | 12/10/1991 | CT |
| 1713 | Petrochko, Alexander | 8/27/1986 | PF |
| 2151 | Presley, Doris | 4/22/1995 | CT |
| 2049 | Priest, Jerry | 1/3/1993 | PF |
| 2138 | Raiche, Robert | 12/11/1994 | CT |
| 2139 | Raiche, Valarie | 12/11/1994 | CT |
| 1638 | Robinson, Steve | 4/7/1985 | OD |
| 1839 | Rogers, Bertha Ann | 12/8/1988 | CT |
| 2225A | Rogers, Dennis | 4/7/1996 | PF/B |
| 2163 | Smith, Sylvia | 6/11/1995 | OD |
| 2699 | Sommerschield, Laura  | 3/25/2012 | CT |
| 2701 | Sommerschield, Peter | 3/25/2012 | CT |
| 2700 | Sommerschield, Samuel | 3/25/2012 | CT |
| 2698 | Sommerschield, Stephen | 3/25/2012 | CT |
| 2055 | Wright, Ricky | 2/14/1993 | PF |

Since our last Charge Conference we have had 15 of our church family and members who have passed away. Those saints of Winchester First were (Please stand):

 Name Date of Death Roll #

Mary Ruth Woodard

Maurer, Nina Mae Reynolds December 16, 2018 719

Thompson, Lamar February 21, 2019 2421

Zimmerman, Tyler Matthew March 15, 2019 2432A

Rose, Andrew Richard March 26, 2019 2372

Click, James “Jim” Estie April 5, 2019 1867

Kautz, Ella Faye Carver July 8, 2019 1559

Wilson, Frances Campbell July 26, 2019 307

Herd, Joseph “Joe” Edwin August 14, 2019 1003

Via, Ray Randolph, Jr. September 5, 2019 1353

Baldwin, Sue Sewell September 17, 2019 484

Gray, Frank McKay “Pete”, Jr. September 25, 2019 2262

Spencer, Jep Daniel, Rev. September 26, 2019 TN Conf.

Walker, Robert Vernon, Sr. October 5, 2019 2112

Jim Vann

Two of these served as pastors within the Tennessee Conference and for a time on the staff of WFUMC.

This gives us 819 Baptized members and 720 Professing members.

Regarding other statistical data our average attendance in the 8:45 service is 149 and the 11:00 is 92 for a combined average of 236. Our Sunday average is 127 which reflects a decline of about 10% from 2018. We are following the national trend which seems to indicate that what is considered as faithful attendance is shifting. Our imprint upon families remains strong. An analysis of attendance records for September and October indicate 170 households have attended worship. This is approxiamently 375 individuals. We have 15-20 who attend Sunday School but not worship. Approxiamently 45 have been involved in programs such as youth, children, and Bible Study but not worship. On a monthly basis we are involved with 425-440 individuals.

Our average offering to the General Fund (end of August) is $10,015. The average in 2018 was $9,535. I am pleased to report that the apportionments for 2019 are paid in full.

This year much of our attention has been focused upon the Revitalization of our Church facility. We are nearing its completion with the only remaining work to be completed is the roof on the Barratt Building. The numbers I am about to report are not exact and reflect numbers available to me as of September 1, 2019. At that time we had incurred cost of $741,639 from the time the project began in 2018. As of that we had a draw on our construction loan of $385,000. Our hope is during the coming weeks during the Thanksgiving—Advent season is to have a “Chest of Joash” event and strive to raise capital to be applied to the balance prior to closing the loan. We also hope to secure financial commitments for the next 12-24 months. This past July we were delighted to have Bishop McAllily and Superintendent Hunter with us as we re-consecrated our facility. It was a very meaningful day.

The Trustee’s and the Council of Stewards are keenly aware of a need to address the difficulty some of our congregation and our guests experience regarding access to restrooms and the Education facilities. It is our hope to bring this need to the congregation in the early part of 2020 (February). Following many hours of investigative research it has been determined that the only realistic solution is the installation of a lift. The estimated cost for achieving this and addressing the physical plant concerns this will have for the Wesley Preschool is approxiamently $90,000. The Stewards recognize this as our next facility need. I believe our congregation realized that when we made a commitment to remain in downtown that we would need to address these type of concerns.

As a part of my service to our UM Connection, I am presently serving as the Chairperson of the District Superintendency Committee (SPRC for District staff) and am serving as a mentor for Rev. Roger Brown who is seeking to be ordained in June. I am delighted that we are the home church for three persons who are Certified Candidates for ordained ministry. You will be asked to recertify Wanda Spencer, Shelby Ruch Teegarden and Philip Mcabee as Candidates for Ordained ministry. If they continue to pursue ministry in the United Methodist Church we will be interviewing them again next year. We are also presenting Jason Woodall as a continuing Lay Servant.

***(I would ask Lucy Majors present her report at this time.)***

We are concluding our first full year as our congregation has been using a Council of Stewards format. At this time I would like to present the Lay Leadership for 2020. Amazingly we had 100% retention of church officers. One addition is we now have three Lay Members of Annual Conference as we have three pastors appointed to our congregation.

I cannot express my gratitude and pride sufficiently for the faithfulness of our congregation and its leadership.

***At this time I would like to present the Lay Leadership report.*** *(*Handout)

Our congregation continues to be involved in outreach and missions.

I am often amazed by the various ways our congregation strives to “see all the people” who live within our community. Many of these things that occur in our community are initiated by members of our congregation. In ways that seldom are reported in the newspaper our folks—yes, our United Methodist sisters and brothers—quietly go about expressing the love of Christ by simply living out their faith in their places of employment and as volunteers. Various ministries that are vital to our citizens and neighbors such as One Day, Caring Choices, Drug Court, The Re-entry Program, Good Samaritan, Almost Home, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Veterans Helping Veterans, Animal Harbor, Back to School Bash, CASA are some of the programs that make a difference in our community and each one have something else in common: members of FUMC are involved in the work and typically provide significant leadership to the program. I am delightfully amazed at how unselfishly this congregation makes its facility and its financial resources available to many areas of outreach. We presently open our facility to multiple AA Groups, AL anon, Survivors of Drug and Alcohol Deaths, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Shalom, and Tax-aide which is a group of volunteers who assist with free tax preparation during tax season. Winchester First is also the Mother Church of the Highland Rim Emmaus community. We have several who put their heart and soul into the community. I give thanks to God for Pat Brandenstien as she has able to share her vision not only in the Stones River District but other Districts and congregations in our Conference. She has also worked to raise the awareness of gifts and graces of Older Adult ministries. I am excited about the retooling that is occurring in our missions and Faith Promise work area. Not only has our Congregation already paid its Apportionments for 2019 our Faith Promise ministry has shared almost $30,000 for various ministries. This year one of those ministries was Project Transformation. I am particularly proud of my daughter Lydia who served at the sight coordinator at Hamilton UMC in Antioch. This coming Sunday we will have an intergenerational mission project in which we will packaged 1000 Operation Christmas Child boxes.

I hope all who read this or hear it can sense the joy I feel in what this congregation does in the name of Jesus Christ. I consider myself fortunate and blessed to offer myself to this congregation.

As if we have not had a challenging year in 2019, 2020 also appears to be quite challenging as we have General Conference and as the Tennessee Conference and Memphis Conference actually become one conference in January 2020. The task before us will be challenging but we still serve a savior who took joy in inviting us to caste our burdens upon him.

I could say so much more but the goal of our new charge conference format is to celebrate and consolidate so—Thanks be to God!

Dr. Steven B Angus

Senior Pastor