

## Governance Council Meeting June 10, 2015 Minutes

**Present:** Doug Gaddis (Moderator), Jan Lilja, Amy McKee, George Singleton, Gary Walbridge  
**Ex Officio:** Rev. Tim Tutt (Senior Minister), Rev. Alexis Kassim (Minister for Youth, Adults), Lisa Choate (Clerk)  
**Absent:** David Bennett, Peggy Alfonso, Paul Leistra

The meeting was held in the Westmoreland Library and started at 7:30 p.m.

**Spiritual Practice:** GC members discussed the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful” which was originally written as a children’s hymn.

The following motion was passed by email on May 31, 2015 and is recorded here.

**Motion 15 GC-#29:** *As agreed upon in principle at its September 10, 2014 meeting, the Governance Council of Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ agrees to enter into the [attached] annotated Equity Sharing Agreement with Timothy B. Tutt and Amy P. Tutt, with the proviso that Mary Staley, supported as she requires by John Edie and Jessica Markham, shall act as the Church's legal counsel in this matter and negotiate final language not to vary substantially in intent from that included in the body and annotated comments of this [attached] annotated copy. Furthermore, final execution of the document shall be contingent upon satisfactory conclusion of the actions typically a part of a standard Montgomery County real estate purchase contract, including but not limited to structural inspection, termite inspection, seller disclosure and appraisal.*

*Motion: Doug Gaddis Second: David Bennett*

*Votes for: Peggy Alfonso, Jan Lilja, Amy McKee, George Singleton, Gary Walbridge*

### Approval/Amendment of Agenda

### Consent calendar

Resolutions Approving Minutes of the May 2015 meeting.

**Motion 15-GC-30:** *To approve the May 2015 minutes.*

Membership Resolution

**Motion 15 GC-31:** *To approve new members, dismissed members, and withdrawn members as indicated in the membership report.*

### Changes in Membership

Died	Sara Joy “Sally” Fox	May 19: Frederick, MD
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Helene Chase also died at age 96. Although she was no longer a member of Westmoreland, she had been for many years.

*All motions were approved by consent.*

## Information Topics

Rich Smith's loan has been paid off. We agreed to put a note into the bulletin congratulating him on his retirement and noting that he has paid off the loan.

Staff reviews. The senior minister review is supposed to happen in June, but will only happen in late July or early August. A survey will be distributed to church members. John Hatch will be responsible for the process.

Board chairs. In the current structure, the Board chairs never meet. To allow for better sharing, they will come to Tim's house on Sunday evening for dinner and discuss ways to continue a dialog.

Equity Sharing Agreement update. Tim indicated that their home loan has been approved. Bob, Linda, and Tim sat down this morning and reviewed the agreement. Mary will also review. They are planning to settle on August 17. Everything seems to be good to go. Mike Weber and John Graves have set up to transfer the money.

Evolution Committee. Gary reported that this group had a meeting a few weeks ago to begin discussions. Peggy will request that Doug add some items to future GC agendas to discuss the process. Gary and Peggy are also meeting with Tim to discuss ways to include the concept throughout the year, not just in activities but perhaps even in worship. The goal is to keep things that we like about the church, while considering ways to knit the community together more closely and make some progress this year. One other goal is to help everyone find a place where they fit in the church. Several topics were discussed including how to include more people in church activities, encouraging caring about each other, and how we talk about our membership at Westmoreland.

## Reports

### Staff reports

**Pastor Tim Tutt.** Recently there have been some terrific major events at Westmoreland including the Volunteer Corps anniversary events, Laura Schatzer's ordination, and the Brahms concert. On Sundays, Tim has been leading a study about the apostle Paul with a very engaged group. In particular they are discussing who the modern day prophets are that we should be reading.

An interim organist has been hired and July 19 will be his first Sunday. Alejandro has met with him. The organist/music director search committee has received about 20 resumes including several interesting ones. The closing day is June 20, and the committee will meet on July 1 to discuss the top candidates and next steps.

**Pastor Alexis Kassim.** Amy Tutt has agreed to stay on as the children's choir director. June is a very busy month. Peace Camp is coming up in two weeks with a good number of kids and volunteers. The Middle and High School mission trips are the last week in June through July 4. All the preparations for those have been completed.

Alexis also reported briefly on her trip to Columbia. Her trip was part of the Columbian Partnership which is a UCC program on which every few years a group travels to Columbia to visit communities that are facing oppression. These issues are then raised with the U.S. Embassy and Columbian government. Alexis may plan an event focused on Latin American issues in the fall.

**Treasurer.** Reports were distributed by email. Everything looks to be in good order.

**Clerk of the Rolls.****Current Membership**

Active Members	401	Includes out of area, unable to attend, "seldom seen"
Associate Members	7	Retain primary membership elsewhere
Inactive Members	84	
Children & Youth (not confirmed)	81	Member & active non-member households
Children & Youth (not confirmed)	12	Guest households
Active Non-Members	38	Will not join but participate

**Boards, Committees, Representatives**

**Property.** David Bennett, in absentia, provided a written report. Recent repairs include gutter leaks which have been sealed and roof repairs. The large tree that overhangs the Children's Center will have to be removed soon, based on arborist advice, due to an illness. The pavilion in that area will also be removed because of structural weakness.

The Building 2020 Team plus Tim and Alexis met with the architect Larry Frank. Issues addressed included an elevator, a remodeled foyer, an ADA women's room, improved office space, a hallway from the outside kitchen door to the Social Hall, reconfiguring the kitchen space and storage area, and improved options for parking and drop offs for people with disabilities. Based on the discussion Larry will return for the next meeting with more specific advice and after consultations with a landscape architect. Any decisions will require approvals and funding.

**Christian Education.** The group is discussing planning for next year.

**Deacons.** An ordination was held last Sunday. Deacons are continuing to train deacons and ushers. The deacons have taken on flower delivery to shut-ins/homebound congregation members and are trying to establish relationships with them.

**Membership & Fellowship.** BMF is working on planning the welcome back picnic in the fall. They will also have a presence at the Gay Pride festival this week and a number of people have volunteered.

**Social Justice and Action.** No updates.

**Volunteer Corps.** There was an amazing reunion of Volunteer Corps members. The committee is going on a retreat this weekend partly in preparation for the leadership transition which occurs earlier than the other transitions in the church. The Peace Corps director was a terrific speaker, and Peace Corps has started a faith-based outreach effort to identify more volunteers. Tim will meet with the PC faith-based coordinator to discuss this.

**Finance.** Addressed above.

**Middle East.** Nothing to report.

**Arts Committee.** They are planning two events in the fall. The first in October is an exhibition of Linda Carter's watercolors. In November of December there will be either an all-Westmoreland art show or a quilt project.

**Nominating.** No news.

**Personnel.** No news other than the above item about the Senior Minister review process.

**New Business**

**Westmoreland Constitution.** To make changes to the bylaws and constitution, GC needs to call a congregational meeting to vote on the changes. The proposed amendments should be sent two weeks in advance of the meeting. GC members reviewed the bylaws. A proposed change in the first paragraph will move the annual meeting to a Sunday in November for the purpose of voting on nominations and receiving reports. Finances will remain on a calendar-year basis, so a January meeting (no longer mandatory) could be held to discuss financial issues and present the Treasurer's report. The issue of

preparing a budget ahead of time when pledges have not been made and the budget vs. actuals for the previous year are not available was discussed.

Four changes pertaining to the Constitution were discussed. 1) the annual meeting date; 2) the new name of the Board of Outreach Ministries will become Social Justice and Action; 3) the Board of Christian Education will become Spiritual Formation; and 4) additional committee terms would be adjusted to two years (Section 10 point a), rather than one to eliminate excessive turnovers on some committees. Jan asked whether other groups such as the Middle East Committee and Volunteer Corps should also be reflected in the Constitution, but these groups exist somewhat outside the formal structure of the church by design.

**Motion GC 15-32.** To call a meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of voting for four proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

Motion: George Singleton      Second: Amy McKee      Vote: All approve

Mimi will distribute the materials to church members this week. The meeting will be held on June 28 from 9:30 am to 9:50 am in the sanctuary to discuss and vote on these changes. We agreed that we will mail the information to those without email, but other members will receive it by email.

Schedule for the July meeting. We agreed to skip the July meeting because of anticipated GC member absences. We also agreed that we need to re-schedule the August meeting to August 19, also due to vacations and absences.

Tim closed with prayer at 9:07 pm.