

MACON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHARGE CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 31, 2014

Pastor Carl introduced our District Superintendent, Dale Stone, who opened the Charge Conference with prayer. An information sheet was passed out to members. The following four paragraphs loosely quote the information sheet.

The Board of Trustees recommend the sale of the church parsonage at 1313 Redbud in Macon. The proposal was approved by the Mark Twain District Committee on Building and Location. Rev. Dale Stone, District Superintendent, called a charge conference to be held on Sunday, August 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM. Notice was given by verbal announcement in 2 worship services and a written letter sent by US mail.

The Board of Trustees recommends this action for the following reasons:

1. The church has moved to a housing allowance to provide housing for the pastor and the parsonage is no longer used.
2. Foundation issues will need to be addressed in the near future at an unknown cost. We prefer to sell the property in order not to spend money that we don't have to spend.
3. We are not aware of any person or group with the time or expertise to manage the parsonage as rental property.
4. Sale of the parsonage will provide initial funding for needed maintenance and renovations on our church facility.

The Book of Discipline requires that a portion of the proceeds of the sale of a parsonage be kept in saving/liquid investment for 10 years. Type/location of investment of funds will be at the discretion of the finance team. These funds provide a down payment on a new parsonage if need arises. It is recommended that this amount be \$50,000. The remainder of the sales price minus closing costs will be earmarked for fixing issues at the church and making improvements that help us better maximize our space for ministry.

The Trustees recommend that the home be listed with Tiger Country Reality for 6 months. They will recommend a sales price, market/show the property, and

handle the closing details. At the end of 6 months the Trustees will decide if we remain with Tiger Country or another realtor.

Following a few remarks by Ben Coleman, Chairperson of Trustees, the floor was opened for a question/discussion period. Mark Truitt advised that the price hasn't been decided but will probably be around \$140,000. We aren't inclined to fix the foundation before putting the house on the market because we haven't had recent problems and may not for years to come. In answer to a question about the trend in parsonage use versus pastor ownership, Rev. Stone said that the trend among strong churches is for pastors to own their homes in order to build equity. Mark Truitt explained the initial six month contract with Tiger Country Realty as being necessary because of the time consuming steps in setting up the listing. It was noted that we do have needs for maintenance and improvements. A suggestion was made that overhead shelters at entry doors be built for ease of use during inclement weather.

A paper ballot vote was taken. Forty two members voted. The results were: Yes-39; No-2; Abstention-1. The proposal to sell the parsonage was approved.

Pastor Carl closed the Charge Conference with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Maddox  
Secretary