

March 2, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Room 311
Generosity Team Minutes

Attendance: Jennifer McGillivary, Joe Strohm, Kyle & Rebecca Peterson, Tom & Debbie Hilton, Tom Lawrence, Cheri Hoeflerlin, David Bennett, Phil Estes

- Pledge Update – 631 pledges received.
- Giving needed (Pledged/Un-Pledged) to fully fund our Mission and Ministry – Approximately \$580k.

Reframing Perspective on Church – Rev. David Bennett shared a Wesleyan perspective:

- Current state: Change is creating a state of unsettledness, moving to a more diverse community aligned around a spiritual movement. Historically, the church has reflected an institutional culture formed around membership and a dues paying mindset.
- Current change is toward that of a Wesleyan theological movement motivated by action/service through a desire to live out Jesus' commandments: "The great commandment – Love God/Love others; The great commission – go and make disciples; The great compassion – "When you do it to the least of these, you do it to me."
- Wesley was interested in people receiving Christ into their life. If we're inviting people into generosity, we're inviting them to offer their witness vs. being a more passive donor/supporter of an institution (pillar member).

Discussion ensued regarding generosity communications with brainstorming ideas that included:

- Illustrate concrete life change through personal stories and measurable results.
- Tell what our money funds. One week of x,y,z ministry costs ...
- Communicate that our 50 individual fundraisers are intended to be "above and beyond giving," that is, after tithes (10% of take-home pay) to the General Fund. There was concern that the fundraisers may unduly compete with general fund contributions.
- What is the impact of United Methodist Denomination restructuring on giving?

- Proposal for Stewardship Networking
 - Personal Letter template in packets of ten letters for ...
 - ...individual friends/ministry partners
 - ...friends in a small group
 - ...formal gathering (breakfast meeting, lunch, dinner)
 - Time for Pentecost (May 31)?
 - The team requested the decision to implement this letter-writing initiative be contingent upon need as identified by our first quarter financial results.

- All church invitation to share a Video Story: “Why I give to God through Manchester UMC.”
 - Collected videos can be used in worship
 - In print
 - Email
 - Social Media
 - The team suggested that in addition to testimony from MUMC laity, partners from area missional agencies and outreach programs be interviewed for stories as well.

- Create 3 – 5 minute video reinforcing Rev. Andy’s sermon messages/theology on stewardship. TBD in partnership with Rev. Andy.
- Lead a stewardship small group (After April 12/Easter)
 - Financial Peace University – Need Facilitator
 - Thrivent curriculum <https://www.thrivent.com/money-matters/>
 - Four Week Series
 - Facilitated by Rev. Adam Caldwell of Thrivent/attends MUMC
 - Do One Thing Different Values-Based Budgeting
 - SMART Goals Finding Ways to Save