

MUMC Leadership Board Minutes

Videoconference November 15, 2020, 2 – 4 pm

In attendance: Rev. Andy Bryan, Rev. Jim Peich, Rev. Phil Estes, Mike Clement, Barb Zenser, Beth Hunyar, Chuck Healy, Jeff Haupt, Joe Strohm, Nick McGeehon, Susanne Mertens, Tara Sintek,

Meeting was held immediately following the District Charge Conference.

Joys and Concerns

Minutes approved from Oct. 11 board meeting.

Congregational Input

- Terry Zenser addressed the Leadership Board seeking support for increasing the visibility of MUMC Social Justice efforts, including LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Lead Pastor's Update

- MUMC will remain in COVID Phase 2 due to new County guidelines and rising COVID numbers.
- Andy has communicated by several methods with Gov. Parsons, asking for a statewide mask mandate that will help us get to Phase 3.
- Lots of prep work done for Phase 3 and the return to in-person worship. That work will help us be ready when we are able to move forward.
- Comments from several board members affirming the decision. No comments in opposition.
- Comment made that some people were not planning to come back to in-person worship now regardless.
- Recap of Andy's goals:
 - Navigate through the COVID season of weirdness
 - Sift through the visioning feedback received in All Church study – a large binder's worth.
 - Be mindful of still needing to navigate the changes to the denomination, which may or may not happen in 2021.
- **Pastor Consultation** - Andy shared his consultation form requesting to stay at MUMC. LB unanimously affirmed that the preference is for Andy to remain in 2021.

SPRC Update

- Pastor Jim said that the staff's health plan would change from Anthem to UHC, limiting the cost increase to approx. 9% instead of 19%.
- MUMC to continue to pay 100% of premium of employees and 50% for dependents.
- Some pluses and minuses to new plan. Slightly higher deductibles, but BJC is now included without additional cost.

Finance

- September revenues were more than budgeted, and the expenses were less than budgeted. Net income was ahead of budget.
- Also reported that the YTD surplus is ahead of budget, but is somewhat less than the past few months. This was expected.
- December will likely be less than usual, but we're hopeful that it will be strong, based on giving so far this year.
- The process for the PPP loan forgiveness are still being developed by the SBA. We expect clarification as soon as this coming week. Staff will prepare the necessary documents ASAP once instructions are given by the SBA for loan forgiveness.
- Preliminary budget was presented that is based on actuals from the past five (5) years.
- Budget gap in 2021 Budget would be filled with approx. \$221,000 in PPP funds, assuming the loan is forgiven.

Trustees

- Phil reports that conversations continue with Ameren about installing solar panels on MUMC's property. They have agreed to indemnify MUMC if solar panels are installed, as there are concerns about our non-profit status being affected by a for-profit utility installing panels.
- Ameren likely to make a presentation to the Board in early 2021.
- Maintenance for MUMC's busses is becoming more of a problem. May look into selling them and go with leasing or renting busses as needed. Current busses are all 15+ years old.

Programs

- Drive through communion on Election Day was successful – 339 people participated at two locations.
- Mission ministry has funded 43 hand washing stations for Mozambique.
- Visioning and strategic planning for Missions is ongoing.
- All Church Study had over 300 participants with a lot of ideas and feedback. Will be reviewed by Senior Leadership in the months ahead, and will be part of MUMC's Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2026.
- Social Justice Ministry had 140 people for White Fragility study, and so far around 20 for study on Jim Crow. For both, about half of the participants were new to small groups.
- West County Young Adults had a successful Halloween Event with 15 to 20 people, about half of which were new.

Lessening the Distance

- Program that Mike is doing with the City of Manchester that has application for area congregations. Opportunities to work together despite apparent differences.

Closed Session

- The Leadership Board voted to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

Closing Prayer and Adjourn

Next Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm. Note that this is a special session to approve the 2021 budget only.