

MUMC Leadership Board Minutes

Zoom Meeting February 28, 2021, 3p

Secretary: Jeff Haupt

In attendance: Beth Hunyar, Jeff Haupt, Aidan Combs, Ali Fields, Chuck Healy, Linda Horodenski, Kristi Koehl, Jim Lange, Susanne Mertens, Nancy Miller, Rob Peterson, Joe Strohm, Kim Taylor-West, Barb Zenser, Rev. Andy Bryan, Rev. Phil Estes, Rev. Stephanie Lendt, Rev. Jim Peich

There were 37 additional attendees for the meeting (including those who spoke during the congregational input)

Devotional – Ali Fields

Joys and Concerns

January meeting minutes - Approved

Ministry Highlight (Recorded)

- Rick Tiefenbruck gave an update on the Bike Rehab Ministry
- See attachment of presentation.

Congregational Input (speaking order based on order of request)

- Terry Zenser – Spoke in favor of the policy change. See attachment of his presentation.
- Dave Warmbrodt – Spoke in support based on his leadership/involvement of the LGBTQ+ Family Support Group.
- Trish Gunby - Spoke in support and referenced her history as a member of the leadership board and the Social Justice Ministry.
- Barb Vendt – Spoke not in opposition of same sex weddings, but in opposition to the same-sex wedding policy proposal in the absence of a church conference or all church vote to consider the proposal.

Lead Pastor's Update (Pastor Andy)

- The UMC General Conference has been postponed again until the fall of 2022, which further postpones the LGBTQ protocol vote
- We plan to move into Phase 3 of the pandemic plan on April 11, allowing for in-person worship
- There will be a Backstage Pass event on March 8th at 7PM to provide more details and answer questions regarding the move to Phase 3.

Elect Trustees Chair

- Beth Hunyar was approved (by unanimous vote) as the Trustees Chair.
- Pastor Andy clarified that it is beneficial to have the Board Chair also be the Trustees Chair for the sake of administrative/signature duties.

Roy Veatch Resignation

- We thank him for his service. The Nominations Committee is working to fill the position.

Affirm Mission and Vision

- The continued Mission and Vision of Manchester UMC was affirmed.

Same-Sex Wedding Policy Proposal

- Prayer led by Pastor Andy
- Beth reminded the board that this policy approval does directly conflict with the Book of Discipline
- Comments/questions from board members (un-named)
 - Some concern going against our own Governance Policies, in particular section 4.0
 - This policy aligns with the idea that “certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (UM Book of Discipline, ¶162.J).
 - Is the board/church itself subject to charges?
 - All people are equal to our God. It’s that simple.
 - We need to remind ourselves that our role as a board is to uphold the Ends Policies and 1.0 “*To be and inclusive community*” would be met with this policy approval
 - Our job is to lead, not follow. We need to fulfill the Baptismal Covenant.
 - There is frustration about further postponement by the UMC denomination. We’re likely just delaying the inevitable.
 - It’s time!
 - We have a responsibility to do this.
 - It would be the height of hypocrisy to not act positively on this policy.
 - It’s our turn to push the envelope so we can be the people we’re meant to be.
 - Love is love and my conscience won’t let me vote no.
 - When I think about what kind of church I want my children to grow up in, I want it to be one that truly lives out its mission/vision statements.
 - If we don’t approve, everything we do feels like a lie.
 - Our newest church members are joining because of our inclusivity.
 - Let’s look back and be proud!
 - We are called to love all people and be accountable to our Lord first, before the Book of Discipline.
 - We need to be proud of the decision we’re making.
- Clarifications/follow-ups to said comments
 - While a pastor can be brought up on charges for going against the Book of Discipline, a congregation itself cannot.
 - The Leadership Board is not just rubber-stamping staff/clergy initiative.
 - The board is an intentional cross-section of the church meant to represent the congregation for this vote.
- **Policy Vote** – Approved (Unanimously)
- Prayer led by Nick Reinhardt-Swierk

Finance Update (Pastor Phil)

- January contributions were below budget by approx. \$112,000, however that data is skewed by the fact that the first Sunday counted towards Dec 2020 and the last Sunday counts towards Feb 2021.
- Expenses were below budget by approx. \$27,000 in January.
- Total surplus YTD January 2021 approx. \$122,000 Actual vs \$184,000 Budget
- Net surplus YTD (after designated capital revenue) approx.. \$64,000 Actual vs \$149,000 Budget.
- Approx \$155,000 remains for the 2021 Capital Goals campaign – we are making good progress.
- A recap of the PPP loan was given. We anticipate at or near 100% forgiveness.

Programs/Mission Update (Pastor Jim)

- The youth had a great “Race to the Movies” Event (2/27).
- The Ash and Dash event went well despite its postponement.
- Over 200 people are currently participating in the Lent all church study.
- We look forward to the upcoming Easter Eggstravaganza event, which will look different this year but is still sure to be a fun, safe event for families and children.
- Circle of Friends Preschool enrollment is already at 101 children and we are encouraged with enrollment #s despite the pandemic.
- We hope to hire a new Missions Director after 1st quarter.
- Molly Henley has been hired as the new Finance Assistant.
- We are launching an Easter postcard initiative to encourage all congregants to invite at least 5 people to participate in upcoming Easter events, services, etc.

Congregational Care Update (Pastor Stephanie)

- Saturday worship has welcomed back two members of the Woodsmill Ensemble.
- The Welcome Team (“red shirts”) are getting prepared for our return to in-person services and recruiting additional help.
- The Stephen Ministers are still making calls and are in the midst of their congregational contact initiative.

Closing Prayer – Beth Hunyar

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Secretary: Jeff

Devotion: Susanne

Closing Prayer: Rob