

**Leadership Board Minutes**  
**Manchester United Methodist Church**  
Room 141 & Zoom meeting  
May 23, 2021  
3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Secretary: Ali Fields

**In attendance:** Kristi Koehl, Beth Hunyer, Jeff Haupt, Susanne Mertens (zoom), Barb Zenser, Ali Fields, Jim Lange (zoom), Rob Peterson, Chuck Healy, Linda Horodenski, Kim Taylor West (zoom), Kendall Miller (zoom), Rev. Andy Bryan, Rev. Phil Estes (zoom), Rev. Jim Peich, Rev. Stephanie Lendt (zoom).

**Absent:** Joe Strohm, Dave Divjak, Nancy Miller, Aidan Combs.

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### **Devotional (Beth)**

**Joys and Concerns:** Joys and concerns shared.

### **Old Business:**

April minutes were approved by the board. April minutes will be available to the congregation.

### **Congressional Input:**

There were no requests to speak to the Board.

### **Lead Paster Update (Pastor Andy)**

#### *Phase 3 Updates:*

- The mentality moving forward is “dialing back rules versus flipping switch for a big change”.
  - Today (5/23/21) was first day with more relaxed rules.
    - Congregants could seat themselves and those who are fully vaccinated or kids aged 11 and under, could remove their masks while seated.
    - Good turnout and things went well.
- The next step in Phase 3 is to relax rules around small group meetings. Specifically, those who are fully vaccinated can take off their mask once inside the meeting room. Further, if fully vaccinated and comfortable, people do not have to social distance.
- Church is asking for and promoting grace and patience while we navigate through Phase 3 and into to Phase 4. The hope is to move into Phase 4 by the end of summer or fall 2021.
- Congregants do not have to pre-register to attend services.
- Bigger events coming up for youth – VBS, etc.
  - Will be a case by case basis regarding restrictions.

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- Saturday service will continue to be online only but that may change \*see Mold Remediation on next page.
- Sunday 8 am service is still under consideration.
  - Service with the smallest attendance.
  - Three back to back services can be taxing on church staff.
  - A definitive decision has not been made yet.
- Music and Drama
  - The hope is to hire someone to teach choir/drama in fall and get the children choirs up and running by advent season.
  - Currently no budget for bell person but that may change.

*Century 3 vision process*

- Backstage pass tomorrow will give congregants an in-depth report on new strategic plan.
  - Four ministries to focus on for strategic plan:
    - Evangelism
      - Co-leaders: Jim Peich, Tina Sayers
    - Generosity
      - Co-leaders: Phil Estes, Tara Sintek
    - Mission/service/social justice
      - Co-leaders: Nick, TBD
    - Connectionalism
      - Co-leaders: Pastor Andy, Mary Beth Harper
- The Co-leaders will take the next month to pull their team together hopefully have a plan by November 2021. This plan will take us through the next four years. The hope is that board members will be on the teams, however, board members are not required to serve on a committee.

*MO Annual Conference Preview*

- 2021 Conference set for the second weekend of June.
  - Hybrid conference.
  - Several participants from MUMC will be in Springfield and participate in person and online.
- Redistricting proposal will impact MUMC.
  - At the conference, there will be a vote to re-district boundaries. Our conference area will go from 9 districts to 5 districts. MUMC district superintendent will have a much bigger district. This is a cost-effective change so there is a lot of support to redistrict. Pastor Andy will let the board know what happens.

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**Operations and Generosity (Executive Pastor Phil)**

**Financial Review**

- April YTD Revenues were approx. \$68k below budget. This shortfall was offset by ministry spending which was approx. \$138k less than planned due to continued COVID impact. A YTD surplus of \$154k resulted after subtracting \$79k in designated capital revenues (Mortgage/HVAC gifts).
- PPP is still in progress still have loan on the books. Hoping to have it recategorized as a grant by December 2021.
- MUMC purchased a timpani and wireless system with Starbuck special music gift bequest.

*HVAC System:*

- HVAC updates/replacement is happening slowly. Look at oldest equipment and begin to seek bids for individual pieces of equipment that would be networked with the rest of the building. The plan is to do small projects rather than wait and do it all at once. A complete system replacement (turn key) would require long term financing.

*Mold Remediation:*

- There are concerns about mold in the older portion of the church, including the chapel in the old church. Phil connected with American Environmental Labs who came in and tested the following areas: office, library, and storage cellar under chapel porch. Quite a bit of black mold found in cellar and in the equipment room near furnace. Tests were conducted last Thursday (5/20/21) so Phil should receive the results shortly. Clean up will be completed by Chris Mann, Maintenance Supervisor, and if needed, with help from American Environmental.
- Due to mold concerns regarding the chapel in the old part of the church, Phil will have the remediation person come back to specifically test the chapel in old church. Kim recommends we get an official all clear before we start Saturday services again.

*Blackbaud:*

- Database software company. The church needed a more robust software functionality. Entered into a three-year agreement with Blackbaud for \$10,000 a year. But key functionality did not work. MUMC canceled the contract. Blackbaud did not acknowledge the cancellation. After a second detailed review of MUMC requirements and Blackbaud's functionality gaps, the Church sent a second letter affirming cancellation, but Blackbaud still continued to bill and refused to accept our cancellation.
- Based on legal counsel, Board voted to request a settlement with Blackbaud.

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*Security cameras:*

- Catalytic converters being stolen from many businesses in our area, including the church owned buses parked in the church lot. The buses have been repaired and are now parked in the local police parking lot.
- This is city-wide issue and police are actively working to address the problem.
- The church has never had security cameras in the parking lot and adding them could reduce theft. Phil received a bid for over \$5,000 however, we could get them cheaper. Looking at 360 cameras which are a bit cheaper.

**Hospitality and Congregational Care (Associate Pastor Stephanie)**

- *Welcome Team:* Volunteers came on board and trained for new covid restrictions. They are doing a great job and continue to make adjustments and roll with things.
- *Donuts:* When its' time to bring back the donuts are we going to do it differently. Serving with gloves and possibly using the kitchen.
- *Stephen ministry-* supervision twice a month. They decide if meet in person or online. We will have training starting Jan 2022

**Ministry and Leadership (Executive Pastor Jim)**

- New Youth Ministry Strategy
  - Conducted a lot of research in effort to grow program.
- Ideal outcomes: more youth engaged, prepare youth to attend church as adults, to connect with the larger church, deep and abiding faith through, to support and equip parents/guardians as they nurture their own faith.
- Will continue many current youth programs, have Wednesday programs and on other days as well. Lots of flexibility build into the program.

**Preschool Update**

- Melanie and Kenna have done great job working with families and staying on top of changes due to Covid.
- Covid has driven down enrollment numbers, but COF has been able to keep teachers employed during covid.
- Enrollment is going up and we have reputation of being safe school.
  - COF only had one 2 week shutdown
  - Summer camp will resume this year
- 2021-2022 replenish reserves.
- Tuition increase starting August 2021
- Families are choosing longer-day programs, referral incentive programs, expanded summer camp program.

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**Program Ministry Highlights**

- Posting missions director position in early June
- Food 4 kids has two new volunteer Janis Thompson and Bea Elementary.
- Youth program remained active during covid.

**Ministry Highlight:**

- **Epworth Children and Family Services (Barb Zenser)**
  - Mission: Empowering youth to realize their unique potential by meeting essential needs, cultivating resiliency and building community.
  - Four locations in St. Louis about 30 kids who live in the dorms and go to Webster Groves school.
  - Barb gave additional information about the history of organization, the current status of the mission, what they do, the services they offer and our church involvement – all the things our volunteers do at the various Epworth locations all over St. Louis.

**Closing Prayer (Jim)**

**Next Meeting:**

June 27, 2021, Room 141, 3-5 pm

Secretary: Jeff

Devotional: Chuck

Closing Prayer: Joe

Note: No meeting in July