

Manchester UMC Leadership Board Meeting

October 24, 2021, 3-5PM

- Welcome by Beth Hunyar
- Attendance:
 - In Person: Joe Strohm, Ali Fields, Beth Hunyar, Jeff Haupt, Rob Peterson, Linda Horondenski, Kim Taylor West, June Van Klaveren, Rev. Phil Estes, Rev. Jim Peich, Rev. Andy Bryan
 - Absent: Dave Divjak, Chuck Healy, Jim Lange, Aidan Combs
 - Zoom: Barb Zenser, Susanne Mertens, Kristi Koehl, Rev. Stephanie Lendt & visitor John Himpel
- Devotional by Linda Hordenski
 - She read from the book Love Heals.
 - To learn more <https://thistlefarms.org/pages/our-mission>
- Joys and Concerns were shared
 - This is the link for those who would like to purchase the new children's book by board member June Van Klaveren! https://www.amazon.com/Smugg-Bug-Story-Unlikely-Friendship/dp/0974434914/ref=sr_1_2?crid=30GTI4R1ITAG9&keywords=smugg%2C+the+bug&qid=1635999077&srefix=smugg%2C+the+bug%2Caps%2C138&sr=8-2
- Old Business
 - Minutes from September 2021 meeting were approved
- Department Updates
 - Lead Pastor Andy Bryan
 - Covid 19 updates:
 - Physical Connection Cards are back.
 - Passing plates has not been reinstated.
 - Hoping to have 4pm Saturday services go to hybrid thanks to new technology updates. Funding for that technology was provided by an endowment.
 - Hope to have more families & children in person since vaccinations are expected to begin soon for ages 5-11.
 - Century 3 - Strategic Goals 2026
 - Work is progressing and more update to come soon
 - January Agenda including training for new membership & century 3
 - Charge Conference Reports
 - Each board member on site received a packet for review. Those attending by zoom were given the option of picking up the packets at the church office at a later date.
 - Charge Conference to be held on Oct 30th at 2pm at Fenton UMC
 - Salaries
 - Membership reading list – 1st and 2nd year
 - Forms completed by retired ministers
 - General conference is scheduled for Fall 2022

- Members will need to adjust to reduced church attendance. This issue is across most churches nationally.
 - In the past we measured the success of events and classes by attendance numbers.
 - Focus on the meaning of the ministry more than the attendance numbers.
 - We are happy to note we have several new members and more new membership classes coming up.
 - Nick and Winter have developed new measurement methods to be based on the feedback of those in attendance.
 - Overall engagement is down about 35% from about 4 years ago.
 - Our metrics have changed but the larger conference has not changed.
 - Barb Zenser asked how many new members are finding us by online streaming first. Jim noted that we have great success with ads on Facebook.
 - Most new members are noting that they are coming to us for our missions.
 - Methods and success from contacting members who have not attended in the last year was discussed.
 - Andy will be hosting a backstage pass event on Nov. 17th to discuss the history of the church and where we stand on issues.
- Hospitality and Congregational Care (Associate Pastor Stephanie)
 - Stephen's Ministers will receive training early Spring 2022.
 - Welcome Team Training is NOT IN NOVEMBER!
 - New Date: MARCH 19th 8am-NOON!
- Executive Pastor Jim – Ministry and Leadership
 - Note for us to celebrate the wonderful work of our retired ministers
 - Vaccine Policy
 - Church leadership has received advice and counsel from conference lawyers regarding vaccine policy options.
 - An optional survey of staff was taken about 2.5 months ago and from that survey it was noted that a couple of staff members are not vaccinated, but the vast majority are vaccinated for Covid 19.
 - Safety of students and staff was discussed and included the preschool.
 - It was requested that vaccinations become a requirement for employment except for religious or medical reasons.
 - Exceptions would need to be reviewed and approved by church leadership.
 - A vote by the board was requested.
 - Dates for the deadline were discussed.
 - Motion for vote was requested. It should be noted that this policy was put together by the conference.
 - Motion requested by Rob Peterson
 - Second was by Ali Fields

- Motion was approved unanimously by those in person and on zoom.
- Plans for the Christmas and Advent Season are under way and the Joy of Music brochures have been mailed.
- First Annual Social Justice Conference
 - Great team building for MUMC staff and plans are already being made for the second Walk Justly Conference for 10/20/22-10/22/22.
- 130 people participated in the all church study.
- 26 high energy students are actively involved with the middle school youth group!
- Epworth is now able to resume meals and other programs in person at their center.
- Boy Scout Troop 801
 - The national Boy Scouts of America has filed for bankruptcy.
 - Concerns have been raised about church sponsorships such as ours.
 - It had been recommended that we not renew our charter.
 - The church is working with the troop to determine what to do based on this advice.
 - MUMC Men's Group has offered to provide safe sanctuary volunteers as needed.
 - Discussions will be made about protecting the church from past and future potential lawsuits.
 - Phil Estes estimates that MUMC has had the charter for over 20 years.
- Pastor Phil Estes – Operations and Generosity
 - Monthly financial review
 - Under spending at around the same rate as giving.
 - Mortgage is down to \$747,00 approximately
 - Payments of approximately \$63,000
 - \$94,000 remaining on the HVAC funding needs
 - Security cameras
 - Had to figure out a new solution because the first option was too difficult to wire. New cameras have enhanced zooming
 - Camera on SW parking
 - Around \$2,700
 - West lobby replaced
 - We have 2 already on the preschool side exterior
 - Fellowship Hall Renovation Proposal
 - Basketball will continue until project is approved and funded
 - Possible new flooring, removal of metal bars, painting and stage enhancements.
 - Discussion about how the space will be used for events and will have appeal for large events.
 - A vote was formally requested for moving forward with estimates and plans for potential fellowship hall renovation

- The motion was from June Van Klaveren
 - The second was from Ali Fields
 - The motion was approved unanimously
- Hallway and office luxury vinyl tile flooring has been ordered
 - ETA estimate is late December/early January
 - Funding came from endowment and general fund
- Gardens and Grounds
 - Large brush pile will be removed by professionals
 - A team of 5 volunteers recently worked for 2 hours to trim bushes on a Friday morning.
 - Hope is to get more teams of 5-6 volunteers for similar exterior improvement projects.
- New Business (Beth)
 - Task Force may be created to discuss long term plan for grounds maintenance
 - The option of moving the board meeting time was discussed.
 - Maybe Tuesday or Thursday evenings
 - 5:30-7:30 or 6-8 & brown bag possible
 - No final decisions
 - Considering club conflicts with possible time change, including choir
 - Doodle will be sent out to survey staff and board members
- Ministry Highlight (June Klaveren with Prayer Shawl Ministry)
 - They have plenty of shawls available in the office so please pick one up if needed for a friend or family
 - They started in 2001 and have now made over 2,500 shawls
 - That is about 788 miles of yarn
 - They have about 130 members
 - November 3rd, they look forward to meeting again in person
 - All of the shawls are blessed before they are given
- Closing Prayer by Kristi
- Meeting Adjourned

Next board meeting is November 28, 2021