

## Manchester UMC Leadership Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2023

Room 313

3-7 pm

Secretary: Joy Parisien

Attending Board and Clergy: Kim Taylor West, June Van Klaveren, Dave Divjak, Suzanne Shimkus, Sue Belval, Kelly Wicks, Craig Looney, Joe Elstner, Sara Beebe, Joy Parisien, Andy Bryan, Andy Blacksher

Attending Guests: John Himpel, Betty Morrison

Absent: Izzy Massey, John Miller, John Heskett, Chris Almeida

3:00 (10 minutes)

Call to Order and Welcome by Kim Taylor West

Kelly Wicks shared a devotional from Thessalonians

Joys and Concerns

Kim read a sampling from leaves to be placed on the "Tree of Life"

Sue shared a 1st grader saying, " I walked into this building and it changed my life."

June asked for prayers for Larry's upcoming doctor visit

Andy asked for prayers for 7 year old Simon, his cousin's son, who just had surgery for septic arthritis

Suzanne shared the joy of her 14 year old son bravely stepping out on his own

Sara shared the joy of watching her 2 year old fearlessly go on his first horse ride

Kelly shared her joy of getting married in just 7 weeks and her concern that she still has a lot to do

Joy shared her joy of youngest daughter, Molly, getting engaged to Daniel, her boyfriend of 5 years

3:10 Old Business

No minutes from September's meeting were shared

Tenants at 220 Creve Coeur have been notified that their lease is up in March and the church will be putting the property on the market

### 3:15 Department Updates

Pastor Andy Bryan

Mission Vision team will meet on 10/18 continuing to pull together one or more focus groups for feedback on what the new mission and vision statements should be going forward.

Generosity Team constructed a “tree of life” in the west entrance where congregants can add leaves on which they have expressed what MUMC means to them. This is to encourage connection and community.

Nominations meets on 10/16. Recommendations will be made for Leadership Chair and Leadership Lay persons to finish out 2023. Chris Almeda’s resignation was received while we were meeting. Nominations for the new members of the Leadership Board will be submitted to the current Leadership Board, followed by approval at an upcoming Charge Conference.

A special Annual Conference session will be held soon recognizing that 111 churches are currently disaffiliating from our conference over LGBTQ issues. However, 550-560 churches remain making this the 2nd biggest conference in our jurisdiction.

Financials were discussed. A spending deficit remains, but there have been some sizable gifts and we hope to finish the year in good shape.

The downstairs floors are to be recarpeted over Christmas break. Circle of Friends preschool is helping to finance this along with endowments.

Pastor Andy Blacksher

Parking lot lights in west lot have a defective cable which needs replacement. A contract has been signed to replace cable, but time is needed to coordinate all of the workers necessary. Cost expected to be less than \$10,000. No target date for completion, but suggestion made to rent lights if too much time goes by.

Handicapped parking may be too far south in the lot and should be rethought. Perhaps less spaces dedicated to visitors would help.

Health insurance changes are being walked through with staff by Mary Pettit and Molly Henley.

Adam Levin has been hired as Director of Communications. Joe Elstner asked if he could be Adam’s board buddy, since Kenna has resigned.

Circle of Friends preschool has had a banner year with continued high enrollment. Their rent has been raised 50% to \$21,000. As noted earlier they will help to pay for the new flooring.

### 4:00 Closed Session

Discussed Appointment Consultation Forms for Andy Blacksher, Ali Fields and Andy Bryan

7:00 Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Submitted: October 9, 2023