

Manchester UMC Leadership Board Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2022

Secretary- John Higdon

In person attendees: Andy Bryan, Jim Peich, Phil Estes, Beth Hunyar, Susanne Mertens, Rob Peterson, Linda Horondenski, Kristi Koehl, Kim Taylor West, June Van Klaveren, George Moggnam, Dave Divjak, Izzy Massey, Ali Fields, John Higdon

Zoom attendees: Jim Lange

Zoom guests: John Himpel

In person guests: Neil Ebersoldt, Dominic Pistoni (Rubin Brown)

Absent: Jeff Haupt, Sue Belval

Call to order – Beth called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Devotional - June

Joys & concerns: Rob – thankful for brakes and a blended family reunion, Andy – court date of kids will be Thursday, Kim – daughter birthday and other daughter graduation. Beth – joys for baby shower and graduation.

Annual Financial Review. Dominic Pistoni from Rubin Brown presented. Agreed upon procedures – not an audit. Very clean report – no specific exceptions. Areas reviewed included bank statements, Sunday collections, cash disbursements and payroll. No exceptions were found. Payroll focused on new employees – verified I-9s, W-4s, etc.

Being monitored - Mary's role (and her team) is highly involved, so we need to make sure documentation steps are in place. Phil reports that about 80% of duties are documented. At least annually, we confirm the agreed upon procedures versus a full audit. Report in draft format – we're ahead of normal schedule but timing is where conference would like us to be. With our approval, should be able to finalize probably this week.

George moved to approve the draft financial review, Rob seconded. Motion was approved.

Approval of April minutes. Linda moved to approve April minutes. Kim seconded. Motion was approved.

Department updates –

Ministry & Leadership Jim reported that all staff are having annual performance conversations. Feedback form is done by employee, supervisor receives it and then they discuss before it is filed

Last year, Juneteenth became holiday, and it seems to clearly align with our MUMC values. Recommendation made that we add it as holiday for staff (June 20 this year). After brief discussion, George moved that we add Juneteenth as a staff holiday. Rob seconded. Motion was approved.

Program ministry. Jim passed out chocolate to the seven board members who responded to his ministry update. Several board members noted how enjoyable it is to read the update.

A Singles connection group has started. A Meet & Greet will be next month; the group is intended as mix of fun and church activities. Future events are being planned and the launch of a Facebook group pulled in 24 members in a short period.

Easter offering – over \$20 thousand in above and beyond gifts were collected. Mission team reviews grant applications and funds were awarded to five groups.

Lead Pastor Update

The four Century Three groups are working. Minutes for each meeting posted on website. Each group indicated that there is nothing specific to report presently.

Walk Justly Conference – we were previously made aware of concerns among a few conference churches pertaining to a certain speaker that jeopardized funding from conference. We asked bishop by letter for clarification. Those present at original meeting were given a chance to vote and all voted no with two abstentions, so there will be no conference funding. We believe that the MUMC Foundation will help sponsor a portion of the conference and are talking to the Gathering UMC, so we anticipate some funding from them as well.

Effective July 1, Missouri moves from nine districts to five. Many pastor positions in the conference are unfilled.

Learning to be smaller church – Realization is that the staff can't do more, so it is up to laity to do new things. As a church, we are figuring things out and will have to do some things differently. The board discussed how we define active members – generally it is through connect cards and donations. We continue Struggling to get volunteers. As a board, we must encourage others to step up.

Operations and Generosity

Phil shared the Table of Contents for the financial packet. A small meeting will be held soon to attempt to make financial reports more readable. Phil reviewed various items to see how we're trending.

Monthly review – at end of April, budget surplus is \$67 thousand which is moderately behind our projected budget surplus but certainly not unexpected.

Endowment funds – distributions reviewed. A recommendation would likely be to do portions of certain capital projects. We will need to be creative in our funding. Decisions to be made at the July meeting.

Grounds maintenance – Larry from JLA Services (?) is sketching out some plantings and our custodians have done some planting. Probably shouldn't attempt planning until fall.

Sunshine Patio – work is scheduled to start June 27 to be completed by July 8.

New business

Over the years, we've used the parking lot at the Manchester Athletic Club for many things, such as Ash & Dash, pumpkin giveaway and the Christmas tree lot. We have had informal conversations about MUMC possibly gaining ownership of that lot, and Pastor Andy would like us to get that in writing,

thereby formally communicating our interest. After some discussion, Pastor Jim will draft a letter to the Manchester Athletic Association that will come from the Leadership Board. Board will review the draft letter at no sooner than our July meeting.

Susanne asked about our affiliation with Boy Scouts. They have temporarily disbanded our troop. We donated a trailer to a troop in East St. Louis.

Dave asked for an update on the sale of the parsonage – Phil reported that the tenant requested extension of the rental agreement until August 1. A realtor walk through will be held soon.

Ministry Highlight

Neil Ebersoldt provided information about the history, organization and mission of Bridge Bread. In existence for almost 11 years, Bridge Bread currently employs seven bakers and two staff. 62 churches sold product prior to the pandemic, and that number is only 10 today. However, creative efforts kept it operational throughout the pandemic by providing product to hospitals and police departments.

Neil noted that all church attendees can support the mission by buying the product. The goal of Bridge Bread is to provide homeless people with meaningful employment.

Closing Prayer

Linda closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.