

Manchester United Methodist Church
July Leadership Board Meeting
Minutes
July 14, 2024 / 3:00 – 5:00pm

Room 311 / Zoom 925 6848 4101 Passcode 177678

Attendance: Rev. Andy Blacksher, John Heskett, Sue Belval, John Miller, Sara Beebe, Craig Looney, Doug Christopher, Joy Parisien, Joe Elstner, Dave Divjak, Jennifer Forsythe, Mindy Brinkhorst, Suzanne Shimkus

Zoom: Kandi Barger-Robinson

Visitors: John Hemple

Opening

- Call to Order: 3:03 pm
- Minutes – Suzanne Shimkus
- Approval of the May Board Minutes: Joe motion to approve minutes, Dave 2nd, passed unanimously
- Devotion - Mindy Brinkhorst
- Joys and Concerns
- Congregational Input - none

Reports

- Sue Belval/Pastor Andy - Plans for Rev. Schuermann's Last Sunday – 7/21
 - Cards will be left at welcome desk for those that want to write a message to Rev. Kurt
 - Pastor Andy shared copied pages from a service for "An Order of Farewell to a Pastor" (this will also be printed in the bulletin) - this will be done at all 3 services, asked for a Board member to lead the congregation
 - John H - Saturday
 - Jennifer - 9:00
 - Sara - 11:00
 - Sue asked for \$10 from each Board member to purchase a gift card to Twisted Tree for Rev. Kurt and his wife
- Sue Belval / Pastor Andy – Plans for Welcoming Introducing Rev. Beaton's – 8/3-4 (his first service)
 - Same copied packet included "An Order for the Celebration of an Appointment"
 - A welcome banner will be hanging with balloons, white tablecloths, centerpieces of bowls and balloons; will need help with balloon setup at 9am on Saturday
 - Extra donuts have been ordered
 - Need 5 Board members to cover parts in the service
 - Sue - to present the stole at each service
 - Mindy - Saturday and Sunday
 - John H - Saturday and Sunday
 - Dave - 9 and 11

- John M - 9 and 11
 - Craig - 9 and 11
 - Joy - 9 and 11
 - Joe - 11
 - Sara - 11
 - Jennifer - 9
- Sue Belval – Recap of the Missouri Annual Conference Meeting
 - It was Sue’s first time attending and felt proud “to be a Methodist” upon leaving
 - Conference by numbers -
 - 31 churches closed in MO this past year
 - \$15,000 raised for Mozambique Initiative
 - \$14,000 raised for Puerto Rico
 - Many ordained over the weekend
 - Honored and remembered those lost over the last year
 - Trish Gumby was certified as a Culture Coach
 - Andy Blacksher played keyboard during a worship service
 - Rev. Ron led a service
 - Lots of talk of unity, knows there still may be some hurt going on, but disaffiliation is over
 - New district superintendent for our area - Adrienne Denson Ewell; former DS Robyn Bell will serve KC area
- Joy Parisien – Sneakers with Soul - Volunteer Opportunity
 - Asking for Board members to volunteer on Friday 8/9, 9-12 at Guardian Angel Settlement on South Jefferson
 - 5 staff members are signed up
 - Sue, John H, Jim and Sue, Pastor Ron
- Pastor Andy – Financial Report - - Current Position, Anticipation for Remainder of the Year
 - \$261,000 off from where we should be, about one month behind (average month expenses = \$251,000)
 - Similar slump from last year
 - A fairly recent tax law change affected giving somewhat
 - Andy has spoken with a former “large giver” about this year
 - Pastor Ron will reach out to others upon his start
 - Sitting on some money to help with AC, but not moving on that until something crashes
 - Mortgage principal down to \$217,000
 - Days of expenses - 99.65 (goal - 90 days average)
 - Money from house sale went into Feb’s report (earmarked for capital expenses)
 - June projected budget - \$181,000, actual - \$119,000

- John H - discussed with Andy a campaign of giving this fall; Andy questioned sending a new pastor in to ask for money in his first months here.
- Craig questioned where else we can pull money from . Pastor Andy cited the Edward Jones, Sterling bank, and Investment accounts which together total approximately \$1, 494,000 as available for use if necessary
- Sue reminded us that the giving spikes in the last few months
- Sara - hopefully with the new, fresh start (unity) will inspire giving
- Andy would like to let Ron be new and generate enthusiasm, THEN let staff put together a campaign based on his vision based on what he hears from congregation, focus on 2025 and year 200. “Generosity begets generosity.”
- Operating cash is first place to look for money, then move money from Sterling Bank operating (money market account), then not renew a CD from Edward Jones (NONE of this has been done as to date)
- Doug asked about plans for attendance growth
 - Ron will be in learning mode for about 2 mos
 - Phase 2 - report back to set new vision and direction
 - Phase 3 - new campaign and outreach, marketing, finance
- Summary - no emphasis on giving at this time, “hanging on,” reevaluate around October

John Heskett – Discussion Regarding a Congregant’s Letter

- Concerns shared around transparency, same-sex marriage decisions, lack of calling for congregational vote
- John H has drafted a response, asked for feedback
- Joe suggested that our congregation be more informed of Board decisions
- Craig - reminder that Board meetings are open
- Andy - the Book of Discipline does not support congregational votes, this is the purpose of the Leadership Board
- Andy - wished we met in a more welcoming space to allow for more visitors
- Andy - value in having a “Here’s what we are hearing” meeting to share about budget, etc. A “Town Hall” of sorts
- Will have a Year-end Report this year
- Dave suggested a one-on-one meeting with himself, John, Andy, Sue
 - John agreed that this was a great way to go about a response

Pastor Andy – Proposed Policy for Tuition Reimbursement Benefit

- Total budget impact - 2024 - \$2065, 2025 - \$7875
- \$5250 per person per year
- Has to be approved by HR
- Has to be related to your job here at MUMC
- Will be paid up front, then reimbursed
- Must be a degreed program
- Passing grades only (C or higher)
- No reimbursement if terminate their employment or terminated

- Sara suggested a commitment to the church for a period of time after education
 - Andy - hard to enforce
 - Craig - deduct from their last paycheck
 - Mindy suggested one year
 - Joe questioned Circle of Friends, but this does not cover them as it is a separate entity
 - Andy - staff has shared that they do not know how to access Continuing Ed, and he is prioritizing that for staff
- John M motion to approve policy, Sara second - policy to require one year continued service at MUMC when reimbursement is received. Unanimously Approved

Pastor Andy – Plans for Rev. Nienaber’s Consultation with Staff and Board Members - 8/25

- Reimbursement from the conference of \$5000
- Board meeting immediately after church, about 3-4 hours, 12:30
- Tiffany ordering Jimmy John’s
- Staff meeting on 8/26, zooming with staff ahead of time per staff interest
- Including former board members who rotated off/resigned over the last year

Pastor Andy – Planning for Fall Kickoff (formerly Homecoming) on 9/8 - Board Involvement and Support

- Similar to last year
- Food served inside in Fellowship Hall like Community Dinners - United Methodist Men are barbecuing
- Fun on North Parking Lot
- Ethan Massey taking a lead
- Asking Board to man stations
- Email also to congregation to register to help
- Probably an ice cream truck, no other food trucks

Craig motion to move to closed session. Suzanne second. All approved.

Executive Session

Craig motion to move out of closed session. Dave second. All approved

Closing Prayer: Doug Christopher

Motion to Adjourn - Sue