

Manchester United Methodist Church Leadership Board

December 15, 2024 Meeting 3:00 – 5:00pm

Room 141 / Zoom ID 925 68484701 / PW 177678

Minutes

Craig Looney, Dave Divjak, Sara Beebe, John Heskett, Sue Belval, John Miller, Joy Parisien, Joe Elstner, Mindy Brinkhorst, Doug Christopher, Jennifer Forsythe, Suzanne Shimkus, Pastor Andy Blacksher, Pastor Ron Beaton

Absent: Kelly Wicks, Kandi Karger-Robinson

Incoming board members present: Joe Bartamus, Mary Corwin, Harold Lee

Members present: Rebecca Janning, John Himple on Zoom

3:00 Call to Order

Minutes – Suzanne Shimkus

Devotion – Sue Belval

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Approval of the November Minutes - Craig 1st, Sue 2nd, unanimous approval

Congregational Input – Please limit comments to 5 Minutes, none

Reports / Discussion

- Pastor Ron Beaton and Pastor Andy Blacksher – Financial Report
 - Review of the October Financial Report
 - Goal is 90 days cash reserve at all times, currently have 68 (had 96 this time last year)
 - Normal for us to be low in Oct compared to the rest of the year
 - Giving in Oct was not good, lowest of the year, unusually low
 - Total giving was \$154,000 but is normally around \$200K

- Total operating cash - \$1,080,858
- Monthly report of automatic giving, none reduced or stopped their automatic giving
- No large gifts in October, all week-to-week giving
- Question about what constitutes the revenue: giving, the counseling house, excavation company, rental fees from using the space
- No pledge campaign for a few years
 - Pastor Ron feels a pledge campaign is a lot of legwork compared to little return
- Pastor Andy had some conversations with members after delivering a strong message today regarding finances
- September was better than last year
- A large annual giver has historically given in October but gave in September this year.
- Endowment funds - spent for the year
 - Quasi endowment fund - invested, gifts usually after someone passes, who doesn't designate a specific use for them. They are used like an endowment.
- \$345 currently below budget spent
- \$415,000 below on budgeted revenue
- Review of Preliminary Data for November
 - November will be finalized in the next week or 2
 - Can't speak to Nov yet
 - December is historically strong even without a big giving push
 - Large gift will hit over the next few months - \$95,000, split between this year and next year
 - Contribution statements going out with notes from Pastor Ron
 - John Heskett shared with incoming board members that our Board and clergy haven't pushed a big season of giving due to our new pastor. We have felt it wasn't currently appropriate.
- Attendance Data
 - 650-700 people this weekend

- Around 800 last weekend
 - Hopefully numbers will continue to improve
 - This weekend was about 50 people more than last year
 - Consistently, week after week, higher than last year this time
- Comments Regarding Discussions with Significant Donors
 - Gratitude dinner for generous donors
 - Spurred several conversations which have lead to some offering a bit more than previously
 - A nice night to show appreciation
- Known Increases/Decreases for the 2025 Budget
 - the 2.5% increase for lay staff
 - an average of 6% interest on our \$200k loan (our 4% rate will expire in June, after 5 years) for an increase of \$7,000, about \$12,000 in interest
 - an anticipated increase of our health insurance benefits of approximately \$30,000 due to adding 2 full time staff vs. Jan 1 2024 (Communications and AV Tech)
 - an anticipated increase in our total property/liability insurance costs of \$30,000 - 1st quote on 1 policy is about 40% more than last year
 - finally, a \$63,000 shift resulting from the AV Coordinator moving from the Worship Arts budget (as a contract employee) to a full employee (reported in the “staff” section of the budget)
 - A working budget approval, not final until we close 2024, likely won’t have a set budget until Feb. or March
 - Apportionments will be somewhat lower in 2025.
- Pastor Blacksher
 - Upcoming Board meetings: normally the 2nd Sunday of the month 1/12
 - Move board meeting for Feb. (due to Superbowl) to 2/2
 - 3/9, 4/13, 5/4 (due to Mother’s Day), 6/22, July is OFF, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14
 - Leadership Board Training in February

- Mark Statler, “trainer of trainers,” he trains all of the trainers, “leadership excellence,” went to Duke Divinity School,
 - after initial session, decide where to go from there, if more training is needed.
- Social Media Policy
 - Susan Nienaber recommended church looking at the policy from her MN conference
 - If we approve, Andy will tweek this existing policy for MUMC
 - Recommending putting this in place for staff
 - Rooted in Wesleyan rules and who we are as United Methodists
 - If approved, Andy will go through it with Lead Team (Supervisors), there is a list of questions to go over with the staff member to have a dialogue
 - Andy will send an updated “clean” copy later this week
- Craig Looney
 - Preparations for 2025 Leadership Board Meetings
 - Would anyone step up to be the new secretary in the new year? Or take turns?
 - Pastor-Parish relations committee, more info after training

Adjourn to the Chapel for Closing – Communion and Prayer – Pastor Beaton