

# **Good Shepherd United Methodist Church**

## **Leadership Board Meeting Minutes**

### **March 29, 2022**

**In Attendance:** Darla Ludwig Bolton, Anne Britt, Renee Delgado, Andy Elmes, Jenny Fairchild, John Fuller, Dawn Heldmann, Kim Ivey, Sam Kirubakaran, Lisa McGehee, Sonny Rea, Bryson Smith, Bob Stephens

**Guests from Chamberlayne Heights UMC (CHUMC):** Jim Smuts (Council Chair), Jayne Ann Grigg (Witness Team, SPR), Don Gresko (UMM, Finance)

#### **Opening Remarks**

Anne Britt, Chair, welcomed everyone.

#### **Spiritual Formation**

Bob Stephens read scriptures (Psalms 143:10, Acts 8) and readings on discernment and listening.

#### **Church Merger Conversation**

Bryson introduced the three guests from CHUMC. Jim Smuts, their Church Council Chair, reported that their council met and overwhelmingly supports the merger of our two churches. Their congregation is aging and shrinking, and they have been looking for this kind of opportunity for several years. They are still in a good financial situation, and are making this choice because they want to – not because they have to. They have a very active core membership and are looking forward to continuing their ministries with Good Shepherd. Jayne Ann and Don echoed Jim's excitement about the merger of the two churches.

Dr. Lee has told CHUMC that their building will be held by the conference for a year. This gives the merged church time to decide how and if we want to use the property. Though it is an older building, it has had many upgrades, is accessible, and is still a valuable asset. There are many ideas about how we could use it to serve the community, and these will be evaluated after the official merger. Don stated that their Council will be meeting to discuss the rest of their assets, which includes funds for scholarships and other accounts.

Bryson proposed the following timeline:

- April 10<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday - Anne will present the information about the merger to the GSUMC congregation.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> - Both churches will hold a church conference for the congregations to officially vote on the merger.
- May – Bryson would like to visit CHUMC for a “Meet the Pastor” event.
- June 26<sup>th</sup> - Last worship service at CHUMC.
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – During worship, we will officially welcome CHUMC members to GSUMC, followed by a welcoming party after the service.

## Financial Update

Andy Elmes reviewed the financial reports that were distributed prior to the meeting. At our February meeting, he was asked if we normally have so much income at the beginning of the year. He looked into the financials, and now responds that this is much more than normal. We were gifted stock donations in December, but they weren't posted until January. We also received a \$5,000 donation to children's ministry in December that didn't post until January. February returned to normal giving levels. Currently at negative \$8,000. We have an aggressive budget this year, and he is sure the giving levels will follow the cycles they typically follow – steady at the beginning of the year, low in the middle, then high at the end during Advent.

Lisa McGehee reported that during Lent, about \$8,000 has already been donated to our secondary giving campaigns (Pancake Breakfast, Change for Change). Bryson reported that a donation has been made to cover A/V equipment needs.

John Fuller reported that we will not need to pay the Priority 2 apportionments this year.

## Elect Trustees Chairman

Sonny Rea has volunteered to serve as the Trustees Chair. Dawn Heldmann made a motion to approve Sonny as Trustees Chair. Andy Elmes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## SPR Update

- Planning for Clergy Reviews
  - It is time to review Bryson, Lisa, and Sam. John Fuller will lead the process. He distributed a packet with instructions on how to complete the evaluations. The deadline for completion is June 7th; **Leadership Board members are asked to email your input to John by April 12<sup>th</sup>**. He will then compile the evaluations and send them back to members for approval by April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Clergy Care Committee
  - Anne stated that we are blessed to have great clergy, and we want to be sure to take care of them. Dawn Heldmann is heading a new Clergy Care Committee which is composed of members of Susan Mongold's small group.

## Leadership Equipping

- Leadership Board Retreat
  - Anne reported that the **retreat will be held on August 19-20, 2022**. She will be looking for a location and facilitator.

## Vision and Innovations

- Bryson reviewed the Pastor's Report, which was distributed ahead of the meeting. The next sermon series will be "Does this still fit?" Sam will be attending a church planner's conference in Dallas soon.
- NLI Initiative Plan
  - Bryson distributed an updated NLI Initiatives Plan that he developed with the staff.

- Lisa reviewed the section on “God’s Space.” This innovation includes a space analysis and usage assessment, off campus space investigation, and evaluation of our grounds. A work group has been assembled (could use a few additional members in the 70+ age group), and a facilities assessment has been created. **Leadership Board members are asked to complete the assessment and return it to Lisa by April 28<sup>th</sup>.** The work group will review the results on May 12<sup>th</sup>. In April, the work group members will be driving around the area to look for potential gathering places for youth and small groups, such as libraries and restaurants. They will also hold focus groups with community leaders and organizations (such as fire department, social services) to assess their needs. By August, this work group will have a proposal ready for the congregation.
- Renee has put together a work group to review the mission work of GSUMC. The first meeting will be in April.
- Bryson stated that a team will be meeting soon to begin reviewing worship. Jason and Maria will lead this process, and there will be “mystery shoppers” coming to observe a worship service.

### **Next Meetings**

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

### **General Conference**

Bryson has had an inquiry about the general conference, our Bishop, and how their decisions and statements affect the work of GSUMC. As a congregation made up of both liberal and conservative members, Bryson responded that we continue with our own plans regardless of conference decisions. The next general conference won’t be held until 2024.

### **Closing Prayer**

Bob Stephens closed out the meeting with a prayer.