

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

Leadership Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2022

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

Opening Remarks

Anne Britt, Chair, welcomed everyone.

Spiritual Formation

Jenny read from The Daily Guidepost.

Church Merger Conversation: Chamberlayne Heights UMC

Bryson reported that CHUMC voted 48-17 to move forward with the merger. They have money in a foundation and some in reserves. He is trying to clarify how these assets and documents will be transferred. In the coming weeks, Bryson will be hosting three “meet the pastor” sessions at CHUMC. July 3rd – CHUMC members welcomed to GSUMC. July 17th – welcoming reception to be held after worship.

Financial Update

Anne reviewed the March report from the treasurer, which was distributed prior to tonight’s meeting. March’s income was \$73,331 compared to expenses of \$48,630 for a monthly positive cash flow of \$24,701. We are currently \$36,035 ahead of budget. Current operating funds are \$82,151.

Trustees

Sonny reported that one of the neighbor’s (Karen Barton) trees are now overgrown and on our property. GSUMC is offering to help her with the cost of trimming the trees as they are affecting our property, up to \$1,000.00. Sonny will ask Carol Walker to cut her a check once the work has been completed.

SPR Update

- **Clergy Review Update**
 - John has distributed two of the review summaries for approval. The third will be sent soon.
- **Clergy Care Committee**
 - Dawn reported that a survey was sent to clergy to see what kind of support they are interested in.

Leadership Equipping

- **TED Talk**
 - Renee shared a TedTalk video with the Committee. [“Celebrate what’s right with the world” by Dewitt Jones](#), a National Geographic photographer. He discusses seeing the world through the right lens, changing perspectives, and how there are always several right answers to any question.

- **Mission Insight Data.** Lisa reviewed the data for both churches. Detailed reports were distributed. Some highlights:
 - GSUMC
 - 50,000 people within a 7 mile radius of the church.
 - People expect excellence in their professional lives, and will also expect it in their church.
 - Children are aging, but not being replaced by younger children.
 - 28% of houses have a single parent.
 - Top demographic segments are singles/starters – influenced by influencers, flourishing families – across the ages, and singles/starters – urban ambition. We reviewed insights about these groups.
 - CHUMC
 - 31,000 people within a 7 mile radius of the church.
 - 54% of houses have a single parent.
 - Top demographic segments are suburban style – suburban nightlife, singles/starters – urban ambition, and autumn years – suburban sophisticates. We reviewed insights about these groups.
- **Fresh Expressions**
 - Renee presented an overview of Fresh Expressions, and started with a thought provoking question: What is church?
 - The United States has many spiritual people, but many are disheartened by “The Church.” Fresh Expressions is a pattern for believers to share their faith in their everyday lives. It is for people who are spiritual, but do not attend church. They are complements to “inherited churches;” they are like wild branches. Messy Church is an example of a Fresh Expression.
 - Six steps of the Fresh Expression “Love First” Journey: Listening, Loving People, Building Community, Exploring Discipleship, Church Taking Shape, Doing It Again. All underpinned by prayer and continuing connection to the wider church.
 - Most are led by laity, with support of clergy.
 - Made up of 15-45 people on average.
 - Some examples: Moshing with Methodists, hiking, cooking class, Bikers in Virginia, dog parks, Twitch and Discord (gaming platforms), dinner church
 - Consider the possibilities!

Generative & Strategic Work – NLI

As the meeting is running long, this conversation will be postponed until the next meeting.

Wrap Up

Next meeting will be June 7th.

Closing Prayer

Jenny closed the meeting with a prayer.