

GSUMC Leadership Board Meeting

January 25, 2022

6:30pm – 8:15pm

Present:

Bryson Smith
Anne Britt
Dawn Heldmann
Kim Ivey
Andy Elmes
Bob Stephens
Sam Kirubakaran
Darla Ludwig-Bolton
Renee Delgado
Jenny Fairchild
Lisa McGehee
John Fuller

Opening remarks - Anne

- Jill Perrin SAS coach is joining us by Zoom

Spiritual Formation – Dawn

- This is a new beginning.
- Feeling grateful as we begin another year.
- Dream big dreams and make bold plans
- Have a receptive and eager attitude

Leadership Equipping – Bryson

- Three opportunities to Learn that he emailed to us:
 - Lewis Center for Leadership – new ministry patterns are evolving, there are attendance worries, changing facilities needs and demographics
 - Carey Nieuwhof – 12 Disruptive Church trends that will rule 2022 (and the post-pandemic era)
 - February 23 virtual webinar on book about stewardship. He encouraged us to attend

Review of the Covenant - Anne

- We received a copy of Anne's and one that Bob drafted.
- We reviewed each point and made suggestions
- Need to clarify the Pastor's requirement to attend meetings to deal with conflict resolution as per the Book of Discipline.

Guiding Principles - Anne

- We currently have what is in the guiding principles. Now is the time to review, adopt consistent formatting and branding and we need to come up with a process to make updates
- Bryson and staff will pull these together out and we will start reviewing
- Target to get this completed by April
- We need to put them all together in one place where anyone can find them

Accountable Leadership Cycle - Anne

- This will be a great pattern for us. To measure how we are doing.
- We will incorporate this more in the future.

Vision – Bryson

- Bryson shared his vision for the church:
 - We offer a space for all to experience Christ through gathered worship (gather)
 - To explore faith questions for growth (grow)
 - And to encourage the world by serving beyond our walls (serve)
 - So that lives are transformed by grace
- Bryson read Luke 19:1-10. We each shared how that scripture moved us/our interpretation of it.
- Our vision must be based on the scripture
- He shared a handout to include his Vision, Method and Measurable items
- Bryson needs to push us harder and we need to push the congregation harder
- Everyone needs to be able to understand this vision, whether 8 or 98 years old
- We have the groundwork for a discipleship path
- We want to create space for new people to experience Christ
- Again, he encouraged us to attend webinar on Feb 23 on stewardship
- We will keep working on this vision. He asked us to give feedback and offer edits to his vision ideas

Review of New Members - Anne

- There is currently a process for reviewing new members
- We do not have a process for tracking and reporting to the Leadership Board about new members
- We will be working to create a reporting system

Elect Trustee Chair - Anne

- Table until next month

Snow and Mask Policy - Anne

- Mask Requirement - There was much discussion around returning to in-person worship.
- In-person attendance numbers were down at the end of December but virus numbers were way up.
- Dec 19th was our cantata...300 people inside the building.
- Christmas attendance was just OK.
- December 26th had 60 people.
- January 2nd and 9th staff illnesses high virus numbers lead to the decision to move to virtual worship.
- We were virtual January 16 and 23 due to weather.
- January 30 - Virus numbers are coming down so we will plan for in-person worship with masks required.
- In-person worship will be based on the virus positivity rate. We will stay with the masks for February. Anne asked that any congregational feedback on masking be shared with the LB.
- Jenny volunteered to monitor the virus data so that we can make informed decisions about mask requirements.
- Snow Policy – no real policy was determined. There is a chance of snow again this weekend. The staff will monitor the forecast and be ready to switch to virtual worship if the weather is hazardous. The hope is to make that call on Saturday but no later than 6:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Fees for online giving - Anne

The 2022 budget projects \$5,000 in fees for online giving. Good Shepherd has been absorbing this fee for many years. Jenny feels that we should share that there is a fee for online giving and ask givers to pay the fee.

Lisa shared that as the administrator she is easily able to adjust our profile which allows the giver to choose to pay the fee or not.

Givers can also set the church in their on-line bill pay with their banks and there is no fee for that.

Lisa, Andy, Jason Hatcher and Bryson will work on a communication that can be shared through email and/or in person to let online givers know all of their options.

The goal is to reduce the on-line giving expense.

Future Meetings

- 4th Tuesday of the month except March and maybe April. The March meeting will be March 29.

Communications - All

- Put our notes in the mid-week announcements
- We approved the budget on Sunday
- Assigned guiding principles to be pulled together
- Worked on our Covenant
- Andy will produce a monthly finance report. Lisa will work with Jason on a narrative to go out with the quarterly giving report
- Andy will do a video about the December financial results not being as good as in years past

Other Business

John shared his findings about the big increase in our 2022 apportionments. Biggest factor is the total clergy compensation at each church. If we add a new clergy position, it will drive the increase of the apportionments.

Kim asked about the terms of the Leadership Board members. Bryson shared that he and Jill are working on making that determination.

Closing Prayer - Dawn