

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
Leadership Board Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2022

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

Opening Remarks

Anne welcomed everyone.

Spiritual Formation

Andy opened the meeting with a reading and prayer about planning for the future.

Financial Update

Andy presented April's financial report. We are doing very well with our budget, partly due to grants, a \$5,000 gift for children's ministry, and a \$5,000 gift for technology. Bottom line: \$10,800 in the black for April, a positive \$27,700 for year-to-date.

Chamberlayne Heights Merger

Andy and Carol have been reviewing CHUMC's budget and financial situation. They are reviewing everything, but are particularly interested in their giving levels and income from renting their fellowship hall to other groups (including two other churches and a dance group). This rental income was not as high as we expected.

Bryson reported that he, Lisa, and Lindy have been to CHUMC to visit and talk with their members. His impression is that most of their members will be transferring their memberships here. He has invited their administrative person to continue in her position for six months. There is also a volunteer who comes in to help with administrative tasks. They will maintain a presence in the CHUMC building and help with paperwork. CHUMC's Staff Parish Relations Committee has offered a year's severance to their staff, which equals about \$40,000. This decision was unexpected, and has some concerning elements, including the length of the severance term and the continued employment of one staff member while simultaneously receiving a severance.

At a future budget discussion, Bryson would like to talk about using about \$30,000 from the assets we will receive due to the merger to put towards Indian Church and Sam's salary.

CHUMC's final service will be on June 26th. Dawn will be attending, and Leadership Board members are invited to join her. On June 30th, CHUMC ceases to be a church. John asked why we will be paying insurance on their building after this date (several thousand dollars). Bryson responded that it is a decision from Dr. Lee based on the fact that we will be receiving the rest of the assets and rental incomes. We will soon begin conversations about the future of that building.

Leadership Equipping

Refresh from TED Talk

Anne reflected on how much she enjoyed that video, and encouraged everyone to watch it again and reflect.

Fresh Expressions

Sam spoke about Prince, a man who has been attending Indian Church since 2019. He lives very near CHUMC, along with many other Christian Indian families. At Sam's encouragement, Prince will begin hosting a Bible study at his home, and inviting his friends and neighbors to join. This is a great example of doing something new! Bryson reminded everyone that we have to get outside of our building if we are to serve our mission and survive as a church.

Differences Conversations

Bryson reported that he and Lisa will be holding a "Differences Conversation," where they will cover four topics: civil conversations, sexuality, abortion, and guns. This will be a multi-week teaching series. Lisa asked for prayers while they prepare, and throughout these difficult conversations. About 15 people, mostly women, have already registered. More details will be available in the mid-week announcements on Wednesday.

Prayer & Fasting

Over the past four years, GSUMC has undertaken many major initiatives and challenges, such as NLI and Indian Church. We have also coped with a pandemic. In response, and because we can't do all of this work alone, Bryson will be leading the Church into a time of prayer and fasting. This will begin July 10th and it will run for 40 days up until our leadership retreat in August. We fast because we want to give God glory; to honor God. This will not be a one-time event, but rather a continuing ritual of GSUMC. Fasting can be an individualized process, but in a nutshell: as you skip a meal, you fill that time with prayer. He and Lisa will be explaining the process to the congregation and supporting everyone as they try something new and potentially intimidating.

Generative & Strategic Work - NLI

Next Level Missions

The Mission Task Group will be meeting on Sunday to review all of GSUMC's mission opportunities.

Using God's Space

Lisa reported that the God's Space task group has been very productive, and does include a member of CHUMC. She reviewed the facilities assessment and comments and their meeting minutes. The comments received were consistent among reviewers. A sub-task group will be specifically looking at the needed kitchen repairs and updates. They will be getting cost estimates for all repairs, and presenting them to the Leadership Committee for inclusion in next year's budget.

Dawn reported that there are many low cost-immediate impact items that can be addressed. These include painting in Wistar Hall, signage, power washing, and bathroom repairs *. Some church members, including Jim Mallon, have offered to provide the labor. Some of these may be made prior to a budget addition from the Leadership Committee.

This task group will also be looking for suggestions from the congregation for community gathering spaces, such as the meeting room at Publix and libraries. They will also be speaking to community organizations to see what kind of space needs they might have.

Worship Study

This report was reviewed last month. Anne reported that some changes have already been made, such as better addressing those worshipping virtually. We are asked to review the report again.

Church Merger (Round 2)

As CHUMC members begin joining us, we need to find ways to identify them when they arrive to worship. Lisa reminded us that their congregation members are grieving. If their transition here isn't handled well, there is a chance that we will lose them as members. The welcome picnic will help, and our greeters are going to take extra care to greet them on Sundays.

Sam asked if their members will be invited to join our Leadership Committee or other ministry teams. Bryson responded that yes, they will be invited to activities and task groups. They will be invited to join our ongoing small groups. They have a UMW group that may or may not stay active here. As they become acclimated, they will be invited to apply to join the Leadership Committee, just as current GSUMC members.

Wrap Up

There will be no Leadership Committee meeting in July. July 17th is the church picnic. The Leadership Retreat will be held on August 19-20; details to come.

Closing Prayer

Andy closed the meeting in prayer.

*** Update:**

After this meeting, the Leadership Board was asked by way of email to approve updates to the restrooms in the education wing. The updates to all four bathrooms will cost about \$5,000. These are capital improvements so the funds will come from the Parsonage Fund which is a restricted fund to be used for capital improvements.