

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
Leadership Board Meeting Minutes
Virginia UMC Conference Center
May 20, 2024

Where Lives Are Transformed By Grace

We gather to experience Christ. We grow and explore our faith. We go and encourage the world.

In Attendance

Jason Blake, Anne Britt, Renee Delgado, Jayne Anne Grigg, Dawn Heldmann, Kim Ivey, Lisa McGehee, Sam Rajaratnam, Laurie Scott, Bryson Smith, Bob Stephens, Carol Walker

Opening Remarks

Anne welcomed everyone.

Spiritual Formation

Bob opened the meeting with his thoughts on what it means to be audacious and a person of prayer.

Leadership Development

Recruiting new leaders

- Leadership Board changes in July: Bob and Andy will rotate off the Board. Dawn will remain on the Board. Tiffany Lewis and Cabell Gobble will be joining the Board.
- Kim will move into the Chair position.

General Conference

Lisa gave some updates from the General Conference, and a detailed handout was distributed.

Highlights:

- Regionalization
 - The Book of Discipline will be adapted based on social context. The United States is now its own conference (centralized location), as are Africa and Asia. This must be voted on at Annual Conferences. This is expected to be complete by midsummer 2025. Each conference can make its own regulations regarding LGBTQ+ issues.
- Removal of Harmful Language
 - Homosexuality is no longer considered incompatible with Christianity. LGBTQ+ individuals can be ordained, and they can be married by UMC clergy. Effective immediately.
- Revised Social Principles
 - Will come out in 2025 with the new Book of Discipline.
- A “full communion” agreement was made with the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church will vote on this in 2027.
- Deacons now have full sacramental authority in their context. They can preside at communion and baptisms.
- There will be fewer bishops (37 down from 39).
- Next General Conference in 2028.

- Future conversations the Board may need to have: Would GSUMC accept a pastor who is LGBTQ+? Will GSUMC host weddings for LGBTQ+ couples?
- The clergy are willing to have conversations with any congregation members who have questions or concerns about the General Conference decisions.

India Church

Bryson, Sam, and other Indian Church members met with Dr. Lee about the future of Indian Church. Current plan: On the First Sunday of the month, Indian Church members are invited to worship at GSUMC. On the other Sundays, Bryson, Bob, John Hall, Renee, Lisa, and Blessy could rotate preaching at Indian Church, which meets at 9:00 am at Shady Grove UMC. They could reuse the sermons from GSUMC to help with the workload. Indian Church members will have to work with and support the speakers to help make this happen, as parts of the service are not conducted in English. If this plan is not sustainable, Indian Church will be invited to integrate into GSUMC.

Sam reported that there are about 15 families currently attending India Church. They are willing to do whatever the Leadership Board decides, but Sam feels they can run their own services with some direction.

Updates

New Members and Visitors

Lisa reported that we have had several visitors. Everyone is encouraged to look around on Sundays and talk to people who may be visiting. Realm will begin rolling out soon, but it will take several months for people to adapt to it.

Finance

Carol distributed the financial report and noted that donations this past month were slightly lower than expected. Year to date, we are \$9,720.40 over budget. No rental income from the Chamberlayne house yet, but the first person has moved in. \$22,800 was received for allowing the Pharrell Williams movie to film at the 6100 campus. We currently have \$34,000 in the restricted fund.

Lisa reported that the \$50,000 grant award we're expecting from The Conference for the 6100 Campus has not arrived yet.

The Nest Academy has been renting space at the 6100 campus, and they will be moving out in July to a location that will not charge them rent. Their lease requires a 90-day notice for termination. The Board decided they were inconvenienced by the movie filming there in May, so their rent will be allowed to end in June.

Pastor's Report

A detailed Paster's Report was distributed.

Generative & Strategic Work

Open Table Update

Two women who would have moved into the Chamberlayne house but didn't because of our no-pet policy will be moving into a different house owned by Fostering Acadia. They will each participate in our Open Table program and be assigned a table. The first man has moved into our house, and a second man will be moving in soon.

Leadership Retreat

The retreat will be held August 23-24, probably at the 6100 campus.

Next Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for June 24.

Closing Prayer

Bob closed the meeting with a prayer.

Closed SPR Session