

Minutes of ALB Meeting on
January 14, 2020

Attendance

ALB: Kathy Schluter, Dick Barnes, Sean Gaffney, John Frunceck, Sharon Garrett, Julie Whitney

Staff: Pastor Matt, Nell Nash, Dan Murphy, Joelle Karth

Guests: Laurie Jeffrey, Dick Steinmetz, Bonnie Barr, Chris Pagenkop, Ann Markuson, Chris Robinson, Kathy Thompson, Beth Groble

Sean opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - Kathy

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Devotion - Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt distributed a calendar with 30 days of gratitude. He asked everyone to share which day was most important to them. Ideas included nature, rejection, phones and people. He recommended that we carve out time each day for gratitude.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Matt

The full apportionment was paid.

Average weekly worship attendance for 2019 was 416. Although this is a slight decrease from 2018, it is far less than the 10% decrease in worship attendance that many churches have experienced as a result of the LGBTQ controversy.

Pastor Matt is discussing a part-time volunteer role as administrator for the church with a retiring church member. The member is contacting past administrators, Mike Hatfield and Steve Zekoff, to learn more about the role. [Craig Walker has since accepted the role].

The Foundation funded the purchase of two TV screens for the Chapel.

Cathy Borman's son will represent the church at the dedication of the school library in Ghana.

Pastor Matt is considering ways to bring more retirees into ministry in the church.

Ron Kral will have surgery for prostate cancer in late January and will be on leave during most of February.

Pastor Matt is exploring a possible trip to the Holy Land next year. 18-20 church members have expressed interest in the trip.

Members will be asked to write 12 - 40 faith statements for the Lenten Devotional and the summer worship series to be called "Credo".

Pastor Matt will be taking vacation during the last week in January

Revised Job Description for Joelle Karth -Joelle

Joelle distributed her revised job description and discussed the key areas. She emphasized continuing her role in adult education and WNL as well as her new roles developing small groups and leading hospitality. She had just introduced new WNL classes, formed a new Young Professional small group last fall and is creating a

Welcome Booth team for Sunday mornings. She works with a hospitality and connector team, WNL volunteers and a volunteer to help with membership administration. To make time for new responsibilities, Joelle has passed on her financial work with Pam to Roanne Barnes. She noted that her current 30 hours is not sufficient to handle her workload. Kathy suggested that she add her role in connecting or equipping and the Strategic Planning Team to her job description.

Recent and Upcoming Events - All

Church office closed for Martin Luther King Day - January 20

Ash Wednesday - March 6

Children's Musical, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego" - March 15

Easter - April 12

Rummage Sale - April 26 Commitment Sunday with sermon series, "Four-Wheel Drive Finances" - May 10

Confirmation - May 17

General Conference in Minneapolis - May 5-15

Annual Conference in Green Bay - June 5-8

Proposed Split of United Methodist Denomination - Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt discussed the recent proposal developed by an informal group of 16 bishops and pastors to resolve the deep divide in the church over same-sex marriage and gay pastors. The group represented traditional, centrist and progressive views as well as US and foreign Conferences and used a professional mediator. The plan, called Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, outlines a process for the traditionalists to leave the UMC and form a separate Methodist denomination. The plan requires conferences and local churches to vote to leave the UMC while no action is required for churches wishing to remain. It is assumed that many Southern and African churches would vote to join the new denomination and the United Methodist would become smaller. During this process, enforcement of sanctions against gay pastors and pastors conducting same-sex marriage would be stayed.

Thereafter, Annual Conferences would be redrawn and restructured and it appears that Regional Conferences might be formed. Each would then reconsider and most likely reverse the denomination's stance on same-sex marriage and gay pastors. The pensions for current clergy would be protected and the general denominational ministries would remain with the UMC. The UMC could form ecumenical partnerships with other Methodist denominations for certain ministries.

The UMC would pay \$25M to the new traditional denomination and escrow \$39M for racial justice ministries and Africa University and \$2M for other denominations that might form. The Protocol must be approved at the General Conference next May. It is only one of several plans that will be considered but it has the broadest support.

Revisions to Strategic Plan - Kathy

Kathy reviewed the key changes to the Strategic Plan. Betsy Hoylman, a member of

the Strategic Planning Team, will meet with the staff at the February 5 staff meeting to discuss the plan and ideas for implementing the initiatives and to answer questions. Then there will be individual meetings with the staff responsible for the first set of initiatives.

Trustees - Dick

Dick reported on several maintenance issues -

816 E. Glen - the new furnace is noisy and is being checked and a lockbox has been installed.

820 E. Glen - Dan is fully moved in.

810 E. Glen - should be sold now.

816 and 820 E. Glen - a decision on a contractor to install foundation supports is close. Better lighting has been installed in the north hall and by Lydia's Treasure.

Roofing Consultant Contract

Several proposed amendments to the consulting contract with Skyline Technical LLC were presented. On a motion by Dick seconded by Julie, the ALB voted unanimously to (1) approve the consulting contract with the proposed amendments and (2) authorize the review team of Dick Barnes, Randy Nash, Dan Murphy and Kathy Schluter to discuss the amendments with Skyline and negotiate, revise if needed and execute the final contract. [The amended contract was signed on January 23.]

Proposed Christ Scientist Development

The Village Manager informed Kathy that WiRED Properties has not yet closed on the Christ Scientist property or submitted a final proposal to the Village. [Since then the Village Manager learned that the sale of the property has in fact closed.] The Village engineer is looking into various options to address the church's parking issues and the Village will invite church representatives to a meeting to discuss them once a full submission is made. Once a final proposal is submitted, an email will be sent to the congregation and the neighborhood group with directions on how to contact the Village Board with their concerns.

Dick Steinmetz argued that the team managing this issue (Dick Barnes, Kathy Schluter, Roy Wagner and Pastor Matt) should be more proactive, inclusive and transparent. He recommended the Church hold an all-church meeting to discuss new developments and strategy, possibly hire a parking consultant and begin lobbying the Village Board. Others felt these steps were premature and noted the various meetings already held and reports provided. Discussion followed but no decision was made.

SPR Report - Dick

The SPRT will assist Pastor Matt in the upcoming staff reviews.

Technology Report - John

There was nothing to report.

Financial Update - Sean

The church paid its apportionment in full. This is the third consecutive full

apportionment payment and puts the church back in good standing with the Conference. Being in good standing means the church can borrow from the Conference Foundation again.

The net operating revenue at the end of December was \$5,815.17 which is \$30,000 less than last year at this time. This could lead to shortfalls later in the fiscal year that we will need to watch.

The Capital Campaign has received \$826,800 and has a cash balance of \$160,641. The Special Roof Appeal has received \$308,991 and paid \$2,271 for the patch of the flat roof over the education wing. We received a \$25,000 matching grant which is not yet fully matched.

Laurie Jeffery asked where the special gifts received at Christmas are reflected and whether any of the long-term funds are invested. Kathy will ask Pam to respond.

ALB Assessment - Kathy

Kathy asked if anyone had concerns with the assessment process used last year. It was decided to use the same assessment and process.

Julie closed the meeting in prayer.

The next ALB meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Schluter