

**Leadership Team Minutes**  
**September 9, 2024 7:00 PM**

**Leadership Team Members Present:** Serena Barth, Jenny Van Blaricom, Michelle Low, Deb Mainard, Lynn Camp, Joe Skaff

**Welcome & Opening Prayer** – Joe Skaff opened the meeting in prayer

**Review & Approve Minutes for August 5, 2024-** Motion to approve minutes made by Deb, seconded by Jenny. All in favor.

**Review & Approve Financial Report for August 5, 2024-** Motion to approve financial report made by Lynn, seconded by Deb. All in favor.

**Moment-for-Scripture:** Moment for Scripture presented by Deb. She talked about how she felt called to memorize Psalm 91 a couple years ago, and that she says it at least once a day in prayer. She recited it in full for us.

**Old Business**

- Continued discussion on ‘Reserves’ - It was noted that, at the last meeting, the Leadership Team had talked about leaving 8 months of budget in reserves, and making the rest available for the Outreach Team to use as needs arose. Jenny mentioned a concern that our church has only a few faithful monthly givers, and that if something were to happen to change that, we could find ourselves in a tough position. No one on the Outreach Team was present to comment on whether or not they had a specific project or need in mind, but Steve Wilson commented that they might want to check with the Actis' before their visit in October as to whether they have any specific needs. He also noted that our church has a history of showing up when a need arises. Serena suggested that other ministries, such as Caregiving, should have access to request these reserve funds if someone in the church family has a need that comes up. Jenny said that she would write up some kind of policy on reserve use and bring it to the meeting next month. This item should be placed under Old Business for further discussion at the next meeting.

**New Business**

- **Smoking on the church campus** – Jenny said that a member had approached her about several folks smoking at the Splash event, and that others were bothered by it. Deb admitted that she was one of the ones with the concern, as the smoke was drifting right into the kids' play area. Someone spoke with Chris Khan, who was very understanding of the concern and asked the smokers if they would move to the far end of the parking lot, as far from the church as possible.

It was also noted that when folks step out of service on Sunday morning to smoke, there is no certainty of where they are going and if it is an appropriate place. Several leaders (Lynn, Serena, Mish) made suggestions of a designated smoking area of some kind that would take into account the needs of the kids, elderly and smoke-sensitive people. Lynn noted that Chris Khan has requested keys and an alarm code, and that he would be happy to talk with Chris about the concern and ask him how he handles smoking at The Refuge and how we could adapt something similar at The Gathering at the same time he meets Chris for key/alarm training.

- **Designation of ‘Lay Pastor’ for Michael Roberson** – Joe and Serena brought a request to the Leadership Team from Michael, who was asking that the Leadership Team discuss officially recognizing him as a “lay pastor”, giving him the ability to officiate weddings and funerals. Deb moved that we approve Michael as a lay pastor under The Gathering's umbrella. Serena seconded. All in favor.

- **Discussion about moving Leadership Team Meetings to Sunday evenings-** Serena was asked by a member to discuss the possibility of moving Leadership Team meetings to Sunday nights from Monday nights. The general consensus from the Leadership Team members present was that Sundays would be more challenging than Mondays, and the Team agreed to continue meeting Mondays.

## **Ministry Reports**

- **Caregiving** – Greg Dumas/Lonnie Johnstone- Not Present
- **Children & Youth** – Deb Mainard- Deb said that the Summer Splash event was a success, and that there were about 70-80 people in attendance. She also said that she and her team are getting ready to purchase the curriculum for next year.
- **Church Operations** – Steve Wilson/Lynn Camp- Lynn gave the report. He thanked Steve for his mentorship and help in getting him up to speed. Lynn noted as a bit of information for down the road that fluorescent tubes for the lights will no longer be available, and that at some point we will need to transition to LEDs. He does not know where that would fit with our lease agreement. He did say that he purchased as much extra stock as he could find, so we will have extra tubes to change out when needed for a while.
- **Congregational Liaison** – Serena Barth- Nothing new to report
- **Discipleship** – Joe Skaff- There are going to be two classes this month. One is the “All About The Gathering” class, which is a short class discussing the values of our church and offering people the opportunity to learn a little bit about 'who we are'. The other is a Spiritual Gifts class.
- **Finance & Stewardship** – Jenny Van Blaricom- Jenny notes that our reserve balance is healthy. She is concerned about our high PG&E bill, and why it has gone up so much. If it

continues to be higher than expected, we may need to investigate what might be causing the increase. She says that she did not budget for a 700\$/month PG&E bill.

- **Outreach** – Melody Roberson- Not Present.

- **Worship** – Michelle Low- A new series started this last Sunday. It seems to have been received well. There was a lot of engagement and positive comments. This series will carry through the beginning of November, and then we'll be getting into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

**Future Meetings:** October 7, November 4, and December 2, 2024

**Prayer For The Gathering** – Lynn Camp closed the meeting in prayer