Faith United Methodist Church

One Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

In attendance: Judy Barbour, Diane Dreitzler, Judy Durdin, Rev. Jennifer Gros, Ama Annabel Ham, Donna Hinman, Rev. David Horton, Patricia Jenkins, Bob Kissner, Amy Lapinskie, Donna Lewis, Patricia Martin, Rudy Martinez, Adam Niles, Frances Planchard, Anthony Wahlheim, Mary Ellen Wahlheim

Absent: Jeremy McKee, Bill Neal

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Rudy. Opening prayer led by Pastor David.

Rudy welcomed all in attendance to first meeting in 2023. Everyone took turns introducing themselves by giving their names and brief background on their Faith UMC membership.

Opening remarks by Rudy:

All monthly agendas for year will include main topics of Opening Prayer, Approval of prior meeting minutes, Spiritual Formation, Leadership Development, Review of New People, Goals for 2023, Review/Reallocation of Finances, Help with Ministries, Pressing Issues/Problem Solving, Approval & Questions of Agenda Packet and Closing Prayer. Sub-topics and/or action items will be added under appropriate main topic as need requires. Suggestions for agenda items can be submitted to Rudy prior to meeting for consideration.

Minutes will be distributed prior to board meeting with expectation board members will review and submit notes for potential changes or additions by email before meeting date.

Approval of December 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Hearing no changes or additions to minutes, Rudy called for a motion to approve minutes as drafted. Motion submitted by Donna H. and seconded by Mary Ellen Wahlheim. Motion approved.

Spiritual Formation led by Pastor David with a bible study from the book of Habakkuk 2.

Leadership Development

One Board does not have a Secretary. Rudy called for volunteers. Hearing none, meeting proceeded with Rudy taking current meeting minutes. Other options to be considered for future meetings or until a Secretary is nominated and elected.

Rudy provided a general overview of the One Board governance model. Future meetings will include training for members, officers and general guidance on best practices for One Board governance. Pastor David will be gathering additional information for consideration at next meeting.

Pastor David will be scheduling cottage meetings with the help of Pastor Jennifer. The purpose is to get feedback from members of congregation to help with development of a strategic plan. Each meeting will have 8-12 in attendance.

Rudy suggested that sub-committees are not required to give reports in the board meeting unless there is an action item specific to their area. The work of the Trustees, SPR and Finance should be done prior to board meetings. Frances commented that committees are essential to the work of the board and should continue as before. Other members spoke up to offer support for her comment. The results of the discussion were that committees should be talking with their members to stay up to date on current topics. The goal is to bring actionable items to board meetings for consideration as early as possible where a vote is required to implement solutions. Rudy suggested each committee schedule an initial meeting to identify service opportunities.

Rudy talked about the development of clergy roles. Pastor David and Pastor Jennifer will be working toward a delegation of duties. One board will assist as needed after clergy have more time to identify needs/service opportunities.

Review of New People

Pastor David spoke on the subject including new members from prior week’s service and ideas for welcoming future guests/visitors. A new member class/lunch is scheduled for January 29th with additional dates to follow. Some ideas for helping in this area were brought up by various members such as; having one board members work with staff to greet guests/visitors and reorganizing youth activities especially during connection hour (between services) so they have clear options.

Goals for 2023

This area is pending outcome from cottage meetings.

Review/Reallocation of Finances

Rudy said finance reports are provided by Patricia prior to board meetings. He asked members to review and submit questions to Patricia before meeting. They will not be reviewed during the meeting unless questions or issues could not be resolved prior to meeting. Rudy said the ACS accounting system appears to be outdated. Pastor David will be reaching out to his contacts for a potential replacement. Frances asked what is lacking in ACS. Rudy responded ACS is not adequately reporting on temporarily restricted funds activity and donor/attendance metrics. Additional research is required to find out best go forward solution.

Help with Ministries

Rudy said this agenda topic is for bringing program and/or ministry issues to board’s attention. Debbie said there were not any issues that needed specific attention at this time. This area will also include reports or issues from Faith Kids Preschool. Anthony gave update that there had not been a meeting since last One Board meeting. FKP’s next board meeting will take place at end of January.

Pressing Issues/Problem Solving

Rudy said an overview of latest Dutch Brothers sale developments written by Jeremy was provided by email. An update since time of Jeremy’s summary was given by Pastor David. There is a potential problem regarding moving entry way access. The issue is with Harris County. An agreement to extend the due diligence period is required by February 6th. The amendment to approve the extension has been drafted and is being considered by Dutch Brothers. After discussion of the available options, there was a call to approve the extension of the due diligence period. A motion was made by (?) and seconded by (?). The motion was unanimously passed.

Jeremy and Pastor David will be in contact with seller’s representative to work out the provisions of the extension request. An updated contract amendment will be distributed by email in the coming days to approve and sign by the February 6th deadline. There is an issue regarding back taxes for converting the property from tax exempt to commercial property status. Various members asked for more information in this area. The result is that Faith UMC will attempt to recover some of the back taxes from buyer as part of final settlement.

Other business

Pastor Jennifer reminded board that staff are assigned to an SPR committee member as a liaison. Since some of last year’s board members have cycled off, replacements will need to be assigned. She will work with SPR committee members on suggested assignments.

Pastor Jennifer led closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Next meeting(s)

February 15, 2023

Addendum

A final fourth amendment to the Dutch Brothers purchase contract was distributed by email to One Board members on January 27th. A call to vote by email was made by Rudy and seconded by Bill. The vote unanimously passed.