Faith United Methodist Church

One Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

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

Absent: Bill Neal and Alma Halm

Guests : Ernie Ladkani, Debbie Shaw, Elizabeth Lafferty

**Call to Order and Prayer**

* The meeting was called to order by Rudy at 6:30. Judy Barbour led the opening prayer.

**Spiritual Formation: Pastor David Horton**

* Scripture: Matthew 10: Jesus *called his* 12 disciples (students of Jesus). Jesus “sent out” the 12 apostles. David explained that In some way, we are all apostles as we are to *go out* and proclaim the good news. He described “itinerant” as being one who is called to go out. And Methodist ministers are itinerant as they are called to move to other churches at the request of the Bishop.

**Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes**

* Correction for number of new members to date is 20, not 2 as written in the Senior Pastor’s Report. Minutes accepted with the noted change.

**Leadership Development: Pastor David**

* The Strategic Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 30th at noon.
* Activities are underway for the new Associate Minister position and new One Board members for 2024.
* Dashboard update: attendance at both worship services is trending up as well as children’s Sunday School. Youth attendance varies based on the hour. Connections hour, Bible study groups and book club participation continues to grow. Children up to 5th grade can participate in a non-structured group during the connection hour. Youth have “hang time” at 10:00 also. The Wednesday night youth group is growing. A suggestion was made to include verbiage in the weekly bulletin about the above info.

**Sub Committee Reports**

* Finance:
  + Patricia reported that the Main and Youth buildings loans have been paid off from the Dutch Bros funds.
  + The Employee Retention Credit Funds (ERCF) have been approved. $137K is the expected amount Faith will receive. This is slated to be applied to the Education building loan balance. The current Education building balance is $176K. After the ERCF payment, a balance of $39K is expected for the Education building loan.
  + Next goal for the Finance committee is to continue to establish written finance policies for Faith UMC.
* Trustees:
  + A full report of Trustees activities is attached to the minutes. Highlights are below.
  + Scouts: The search for an Insurance Provider that will accept the Scouts program is underway. The current Insurance policy expiration date is September 30,2023.
  + Lightning Strike: new LED panels are ordered and expected to arrive in August. Microphones in the choir area are being reviewed for replacement and installation.
  + The Workday was successful, and another is planned for September 30th. This day will also align with the setup needed for pumpkins arrival on October 1st.
  + The amended charter for Scouts was signed by David and has been sent to Scouts leadership for signature.
  + Numerous items have been reviewed and are/or soon to be completed within the church, both inside and outside details.
  + Additional action items include replacing lighting in various places, possible change of sconces and a “Carpenters Hands” group to be established. Suggestion was made to include the Carpenter Hands request in @Faith announcements.
  + Possibility to secure a Handyman Service. Note, that these services are not inexpensive.
  + Request to research the possibility of adding an additional adult restroom in the Education building. There is only one restroom that is available for Faith Kids Preschool staff.
  + Manage additional requests within the 2023 budget.
* SPR
  + Diane reported that the group met via Zoom on July 16th at 6:30 PM. The primary discussion was for action items needed for the new Associate Minister search. A list of qualities and responsibilities was drafted and sent to David. He has passed this on to the District Superintendent (DS) for review and their next steps. David reported that the Bishop and DS will meet on July 24th. There may be a short list of potential candidates due to the number of disaffiliate Methodist churches in the conference. Next steps are not yet known.
  + Jennifer has begun working with others to manage certain tasks that she currently does.
  + Recognize celebrations for Jennifer on August 20th at 10:00 and 12:00: “Love On Pastor Jennifer Day”.
* Church Ministries
  + Faith Kids Preschool (FKP)
    - Anthony reported that the policy for FKP/Trustees as it relates to improvements and excess budget has been drafted for Faith UMC review. Patricia will also review.
    - FKP classes start on August 21st. Goals and action items are to be determined.
    - A Trustee representative attending the FKP board meetings has been helpful.
    - Comments/requests: security has improved, an additional restroom for adult use has been requested.
    - David reminded that FKP and Faith UMC are not separate entities; they are a cohesive unit.
  + Ministry Activities Update
    - The Children’s ministry has been very busy this summer. The final camp for Summer 2023 is Robotics, week of July 24th. All camps went amazingly well thanks to Debbie, Cheryl, staff, and others involved.
    - The Ministry Fair is scheduled for August 13th from 10:00 – Noon.
    - David is designing “Wonders and Signs” with a curriculum to allow church members to tell their stories, based on Acts 2: 43.
  + Scouts: Ernie reported that David signed the amended Charter. They are also exploring the charter with other insurance providers or non-profit organizations. This is being done in case Faith UMC’s insurance provider does not renew the policy if the Scouts program continues.
  + 2 Troops attended camp in North Carolina. The scouts had an outing to Incredible Pizza in Conroe. Others have been busy providing labor and service in various areas. Eagle Scouts are busy working on their respective projects. Eagle Scouts have contributed their time, money, and efforts to several projects within Faith UMC.
* Pressing Issues/Problem Solving
  + Pumpkins arrive on October 1st. 2nd delivery is to be determined.
  + Pumpkin Fest is October 14th and volunteers are needed to help with setup, day of activities and take down. Suggestion to possibly have a fire truck on property for kids to investigate.
  + Amy mentioned that there is a National Junior Honor Society program in the school district and students can help with volunteer opportunities.
  + Halloween: Trunk or Treat and Movie Night will be held indoors.
  + The Dutch Bros roadwork change is scheduled to be completed by mid-August. Final construction and opening are estimated between mid-October and late November.

**Senior Pastor’s Report**

* Celebrate Jennifer on August 20th.
* Watch for information related to the Wonders and Signs. There could be a 4-week study coming.
* New Associate Minister searches, prayers, and discernment for the right person for Faith UMC.
* Children’s Sunday School times are changing. 1st Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 service will be shortened, and children will be brought to the sanctuary so they can participate in Communion with their family.
* 9:00 service will have approximately 20 minutes with live children’s message from David and Debbie leading. Children will then move to their assigned Sunday School classrooms.
* No children’s message at 11:00.
* David shared that Faith UMC is a well-respected church and ministers will be excited to serve our church.
* A question came up about Intern program. This is a possibility and funds would need to be identified.

**Adjournment:**

Request from Rudy to adjourn the meeting. Diane made a motion to adjourn, Donna Lewis seconded go adjourn at 7:45 PM. Motion passed.

**Closing Prayer:** Judy Barbour led the prayer.