

Senoia United Methodist Church (SUMC)

Leadership Board Meeting March 9, 2025

ATTENDEES

Pastor: Dr. Julie Schendel

Board Members: Sharon Boyer, Beth Hughes, Sam Sweat, Kimberly Tinsley, and Ginger Wright

Absent Members: Rod Glover, Jim Garver, Jennifer Meares, and Maurice Ungaro

Guests & Visiting Church Members: Jean Cotton

AGENDA

Opening Prayer/Devotional - Sharon Boyer "We are all connected"

Opening Business

Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes - *Ginger Wright*

Sharon Boyer moved that the minutes from the meeting held on February 9, 2025 be approved. Beth Hughes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented by all Board Members present.

The Board discussed the number of members absent for the meeting, two members had provided previous notification that they would not be in attendance, however, two did not. The Board acknowledged the need for a formal *Attendance Policy*. Ginger Wright was to send notification to the Members of the Board reminding them of the importance of attendance and the need of prior notification of absence (unless an emergency).

Guest Remarks

- Jean Cotton was in attendance to discuss SUMC's current *Wedding Policy*. The policy in its current state was very lengthy and wordy. Prior to the Board Meeting, Jean provided suggestions on revisions that should be made to the policy. Nancy Lewis had also provided a list of recommendations for consideration by the Board. Jean was in attendance to verbally review the revisions. Among the suggestions were:
 - She asked if Julie would like to revise the "Letter from the Pastor" section in the front of the policy.
 - The section titled "The Presiding Pastor" needs to be reworded. The reader has to read far down into the section to learn that their chosen pastor may also participate. The pre-marital counseling also needed to address that some counseling sessions may take place via Zoom.
 - The "Wedding Music" section also needed to be revisited as several things had changed.
 - The "Photography" section was also very wordy and could be condensed.
 - Page 7 of the Policy also needed to be revisited (Alcohol-Smoking)
 - The "Time Allocations" section should also be revised stating that the Wedding Director will be present and that an hourly fee rate should be established for time used over the stated times in the section.

- The “Guest Wedding Fees” section should be addressed, as the fees are not in comparison to the time spent, the Wedding Director and Custodian should receive a much higher rate.
- There were also several minor grammatical errors to correct.

The Board agreed that due to the number of members absent, the *Wedding Policy* would be addressed at a later meeting. Members in attendance were asked to review the policy and provide suggestions also.

Pastor’s Report -

- Julie reminded the Board that Rev. Keya Hillman, Regional Director of the SW District, would be attending the April 13, 2025 meeting. Ginger and Kimberly would provide lunch for the Leadership Board.
- Julie discussed with the Leadership Board of the Goals from the October 2024 Ministry Review.
 - She said that it might be time to have the congregation complete new ministry cards as several members in volunteer positions were no longer attending. Volunteers for participating in church service would be reminded that they would need to find his/her replacement in the event they are unable to participate as scheduled. In the event they can not find a replacement, then they should contact the Office Admin.
 - Continuing education was needed for the Leadership Board and the Nominations Committee. The Leadership Board briefly discussed potential members for next year to replace those that would be “rolling off” to share with Nominations.
 - Julie expressed concern for the Christians In Action Committee (“CIA”). The committee seemed to be facing difficulties with volunteers.

Old Business

- **Finance -**
 - Leigh Morgan had transferred the checkbook, computer, etc to James Haycraft as the new Treasurer on Monday, February 17.
 - Beth informed the Leadership Board that the payroll company approved at the previous meeting would take over payroll as of March and would “cleanup” the January and February errors made by the previous accountant.
 - Leigh Morgan had been in contact with the IRS and had filed the required form to track the missing check from the IRS overpayments. The tracking will take about six weeks, after which the IRS will either issue a new check or send a letter as to what they found.
 - Beth provided the Leadership Board with copies for the 2025 Budget to show expenditures for the year to date. The Leadership Board also received a detailed accounting of the IRS monies received to date and those funds that were expected that had not been received.
- **Security Update** - The locks had been changed. Fifteen keys had been made and provided to the Heads of Committees, AA, Rotary, and Employees. Keys were available for checkout in the church office. A detailed account of key holders is also being kept in the church office. Sam reviewed bids for updating the lighting around the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and parsonage. The lowest bid was for \$1,500. Monies

for the expenditure would be coming from the non-budget account. Sam would send an email to the Leadership Board asking for approval of the expenditure. Julie also informed the Leadership Board that a church member had requested the sanctuary remain unlocked at all times. Citing security concerns, the Leadership Board declined the request and stated that the Prayer Garden may be used for prayer and reflection should the sanctuary be locked.

- **Bus** - Kimberly had a lead for the sale of the bus to White Plains UMC in Hogansville. She tried to follow the lead, but had been unsuccessful. The bus was now going to be placed on Bob's property on Highway 16 and listed for sale. Starting list price was going to be \$20,000.

New Business

- **Wedding Policy** - previously discussed
- **Churchwide Clean Up** - Sharon discussed dates for spring clean up. The date of April 12, 2025 from 9:00am - 1:00pm was chosen with a rain date of April 26.

Executive Session

Next Meeting - Sunday, April 13, 2025 will be a work session with Keya Hillman. At the following meeting on Sunday, May 18 Maurice will take minutes and Kimberly will provide the devotion.

Closing Prayer - Beth Hughes

Minutes submitted by - Beth Hughes

ACTION ITEMS

1. Sam to email Leadership Board for approval of the lighting updates.
2. Ginger to email the Leadership Board in regards to attendance at monthly meetings.
3. All Leadership Board were requested to review the *Wedding Policy* for recommended revisions.
4. A formal *Attendance Policy* needs to be drafted.