

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Guiding Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2022—6:30 pm—Zoom Teleconference

Members Present:

Administration: Betty Schiele, Anne Boyle, Sarah Vaughan

SPRC: Sarah Wright, Julie Marshall

Trustees: Laura Godwin, Justin Coffey

Finance: Chris Franklin, Kendall Humphries

Lay Leadership: Mark James, Jon Ryan, Lynne Kelly

Secretary: Dani Corrigan

Lead Pastor: Justin White

St. Mark's Staff Present: none

CALL TO ORDER (6:31)

Betty called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

DEVOTION – Anne Boyle

Anne shared a devotion entitled “The Joy That Christ Gives” from the book *52 Devotions for Church Leaders* by Robert H. Ramey. She spoke about how Jesus promised joy and reminisced on youth conferences singing “I’ve Got the Joy of Jesus down in My Heart.” Jesus’ joy comes from abiding and obedience in his command. It is important for Christian leaders to have joy in their lives. If we are enthusiastic in showing and sharing our joy then others will want to join to serve in Christ. Anne thanked everyone on Guiding Council for bringing joy to the group and the church community. She finds joy in serving in this group even when we have difficult topics and hopes we can all find and share this joy.

OPENING PRAYER- Anne Boyle

Anne led us in the Capital Campaign Prayer that Lynne and the prayer team developed.

PRAISES (6:38)

- Justin White shared that Zandy’s surgery went well this morning.
- Betty is proud of the handbell ringers and expressed the difficulty of the piece they prepared and shared this past Sunday. She complimented Justin’s wife Katie for joining and jumping right with a very advanced group. Lynne added that Selina is leading 6 young men in learning the hand bells and Betty added that there are currently two groups of youth. Betty complimented Selina on her dedication and fantastic work with the youth.
- Anne is grateful and excited for the worship ministry group working on Lent in a box to bring to our homebound members to allow them to participate with services this Lent season.

MINUTES (6:42)- Betty Schiele

The January 2022 meeting minutes were reviewed, and the following changes were proposed:

- Laura stated in the Trustees' report it should be the freezer is on hold for repair, not the refrigerator.
- Mark stated on page two of the Finance report "Equity Balance" should read "Equity Plus Liability Balance."

Jon moved to approve the minutes with the above changes for the January 17, 2022 meeting and the motion was seconded by Mark James. The motion was approved unanimously.

FINANCE (6:42): Reports in Google Docs

Chris Franklin informed:

- Reports in Google Docs
 - January 2022 Balance Sheet
 - P&L Budget- Operating January 2022
- January 2022 Balance sheet- see for details
 - Total assets: roughly \$1.8 million
 - Mortgage: around \$1 million
 - HVAC: \$52,000
 - Total liability: under \$1.3 million
 - Total liabilities & equity: \$1.789 million
- Operating statement
 - Income fell short of budget. When comparing 2022 to 2021, there was a \$12,000 improvement from January 2021 to January 2022. One highlight on income is good rental income. In talking to Hannah, she mentioned there should not be any challenges and rentals should exceed income.
 - The church is \$1,120 short of budget; however, this is the first month of the year with eleven months ahead. With more people getting back in the church and rentals this deficit should be offset.
- Chris opened the floor to questions. There were no questions regarding the financial committee report.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Justin White informed:

- Everyone should have received introduction letter in the mail.
- The campaign kickoff is planned for March 6. This includes the leadership luncheon directly after the 11 service. Everyone on Guiding Council is invited. Childcare will be provided. Rev. Burt Brooks will lead the sermon and be involved with the luncheon.
- Commitment Sunday will be April 3. Members will receive a letter and a commitment sheet. There will be one service with a luncheon following.
- The steering committee completed multiple visits to show campaign material and received feedback. The material was edited based on the feedback. The groups that the committee members met with were diverse in ages and length of church membership. No one in these groups was surprised by the capital campaign and are aware of its need.

- Lynne and the prayer team have created prayer walks that will happen throughout the campaign. She reminded everyone to pray the capital campaign prayer at 11:55 throughout the campaign.
- Laura encouraged everyone as church leaders on Guiding Council to be involved in promoting the campaign. GC members do not need to know all the answers to members' questions and should refer them to the steering committee. They will be happy to help.
- Betty asked about the plan with Rebecca Harmon's project of videotaping asking people why they love St. Mark's. Justin informed that Rebecca will be working with Stacy on editing these to show during service at the kickoff and throughout the campaign in person and online.
- Anne reminded everyone to RSVP to the leadership luncheon. Martha Seitz is preparing the meal in the CLC. Lunch is being financed by members of the capital campaign committee., please be good stewards of these donations by RSVPing. Hannah sent the email with the link to RSVP on 2/7/2022. If you need it re-sent, please contact Anne. The program is for informative in nature and will not be asking for your pledge. Childcare and children's meal will be available. Please note in RSVP if dietary needs.

TRUSTEES (6:57)- Report in Google Docs

Laura Godwin informed:

- HVAC in Fellowship Hall has had the needed duct work completed. A unit in the Sanctuary stopped working because it is out of refrigerant. James River found a broken coil and will provide a quote. At this time, they do not feel a concern with maintaining temperature with other two units in this space based on current weather.
- The elevator is awaiting its certification. Priority is working with the county. They recommend fixing the alignment issue.
- The collapsible wall in the fellowship hall is awaiting supplies to be repaired.
- The gym floor research on quotes is in process. Kristin, the rental coordinator reported that the gym is rented every week until summer. The repair will need to happen in the summer to not disrupt rentals.
- Bus and security issues go together. Trustees are investigating what is the most cost-effective process for security. The bus will be fixed once security is set up. Trustees are continuing to look at options and quotes for security measures.
- The gutters have been clogged and are causing leakage. They will be cleaned next month.
- The nursery hallway has flooded three times. The issue stems from a clogged pipe in the courtyard. Next step will be to get a quote to pour concrete once repairs are made. If anyone has a relationship with a concrete pouring company, please let trustees know.
- The trustee handbook is being updated.
- They are not ready to ask Guiding Council to spend money for repairs at this time. They want to have more details of needs and costs before presenting to Guiding Council.
- The current Capital Campaign Balance in the reports should read: \$27,889.01
- The broken oven and freezer are shelved items at this time.

VISION COUNCIL (7:03)- Reports in Google Docs

Sarah Vaughan informed:

- She is working with the committees to shift their outlooks to focus on present as well as looking to the future. For the last two years they have been focused on the present time as they navigated Covid. Each committee will present a “bucket list” wish.

GROW

- Children Ministry Team
 - Nursery now has an air purifier. They average about 5 kids a Sunday.
 - Looking to have a return of “Learning to Use My Bible” Class since it has been about three years since the last class.
 - On the months that have 5 Sundays they are looking to do a mission Sunday. One current idea is to support Fox elementary. They are hoping to use this as an opportunity to have children return to bringing small offerings (0.50 cents-\$1.00) for Sunday school.
 - Bucket Wish: Celebration for the volunteers. They always need for volunteers and want to thank all the current volunteers.
 - Selina’s middle school bell group grew from one kid to seven kids. They are still looking for more ringers.
- Student Ministry Team
 - Middle School small group is working with Laura on learning to use their Bibles
 - Youth have opportunity to meet during GROW hour, Wednesday night small groups and Sunday afternoons. High school boys will be re-starting small group soon.
- Adult Ministry Team
 - March 6 GROW hour will change topics.
 - Rooms 201 and 204 look great thanks to the registry donations.
 - UMM is holding sausage and March Madness fundraisers to replace the lost donations from Wednesday night dinners. The funds will go to the St. Mark’s Good Samaritan fund.
- Worship Ministry Team
 - Phyllis Guiser has agreed to coordinate the ushers for the 11:00 service.
 - There will be monthly guest musicians. Betty’s sister will play violin this week.
 - Lent in a box will be prepared to share with the shut ins so they are able to participate in the Lenten season
 - Bucket list: short videos before Sunday online service to welcome them and prepare them for worship.

LOVE

- Congregational Care Team
 - Visits with homebound congregants continue to be going well. There was an example of an elderly neighbor joining a visit and joy was had by all. They are looking to have items donated for St. Patrick’s Day and Easter bags.
 - There will be a donation box out on Sundays to donate items for bags for homebound congregants.
 - Bobby would appreciate timely communication to the Congregational Care committee for members who need support. This includes surgeries, hospitalizations, deaths, and family support

- Service to Others
 - March Mission Madness events
 - March 6 will be food donations for our current food banks.
 - March 13 will be birthday boxes for Meals on Wheels.
 - March 20 will be building tables for CARITAS furniture bank. Jane will have a sign up to know how many kits are needed. there will be a sign up for this event.
 - March 27 will be a supply collection for Evergreen Elementary
- Outreach and Witness Team
 - Currently working on a flier for the new housing development across the street from St. Mark's on Lucks Lane.
 - Bunny breakfast and egg hunt will be April 9
 - Vacation Bible School will be in June in person in the evenings. They are hopeful this will create an opportunity for people who work during the day to be involved with volunteering in the evenings.
 - Trunk or Treat will be on October 30.
 - Kristin is trying to get outside of St Mark's. They are looking for ways for the church to have a presence with events and groups outside of church.
- Other item: A church member reached out about potential respite care for his wife or other members of church.
- Betty and Julie mentioned how fantastic the committee leaders and members of Vision Council are.
- Laura asked about the Worship committee's "Bucket List" item of teleprompter Laura may know connection for this. Sarah shared that Nancy Spencer is leading this group.

SPR (7:18)- Report in Google Doc

Sarah Wright informed:

CHARGE CONFERENCE (7:20) Documents in Google Doc (under Virginia Conference 2022)

Anne Boyle informed:

- There was a special session of the annual conference on January 29 on Zoom regarding the Boy Scout of America settlement. Anne and Pastor Justin attended.
- The Virginia Conference will pay roughly \$900,000 of the \$30 million in the national UMC settlement for the survivor trust. Initially it was planned the money would come half from Virginia Conference reserve funds and half from local churches. This had St. Mark's paying an apportionment of \$827.50 in 2023 and another \$827.50 in 2024.
- The Virginia Conference presented two options for paying the settlement:
 - Option 1: The entire \$988,456 will be paid from Conference Reserves in 2022.
 - Option 2: The \$988,456 will be paid from conference reserves in 2022 and the local churches pay 50% to reimburse the reserves.
- A vote was held, and Option 1 won. Churches may voluntarily reimburse the reserve fund.

- Despite all the money in the settlement, we pray for victims
- Since the Jan 29 meeting, Boy Scouts have reached an agreement with the Tort Claims Committee. This is a positive step; however, the settlement has not been finalized with the bankruptcy court.
- This will relieve our liability. There were around 80 potential cases with 24 claims out of the state of Virginia.
- There will be more work to train leaders to support victims of sexual abuse. If you are interested in being involved with this, contact the district lay leader. This report is in Google Docs.

PATH FORWARD (7:29) Report in Google Docs

Lynn Kelly informed

- Last meeting Lynne asked for feedback for what GC needs to know from Path Forward Task Force. She received it from a few guiding council members.
- Background for creating Path Forward Task Force: In 2019 at the General Conference there was a vote of 438 to 384 to strengthen the ban on same sex marriage. This vote did not settle the debate. It started discussions on denomination divorce. Path Forward Committee was set up a year ago expecting General Conference to occur Summer (2021) but it was postponed again. Groups came together and came up with Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. Under this proposal the churches who support same sex marriage will be able to leave the church with their property and 25 million dollars to start new denomination. The protocol sets aside additional money for additional denominations. One of these denominations that is already organizing is Global Methodist Church.
- The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation will be presented at General Conference and will have a vote. General Conference meeting is set for Minneapolis August 29-September 6, 2022. It will be decided by the end of March if this will take place. They are looking into ensuring global members have access to vaccines and Visas. Currently 1/3 of the people attending cannot get a Visa due to difficulties created by the Pandemic. The commission has been clear that there must be a reasonable level of global participation.
- Path Forward Task Force has not met since November 2021. They would like to suspend meeting at this time until proposals come up for general conference as there is nothing new to discuss.
- Betty reported that Pastor Fran went to the General Conference in 2019 and it was very heated and difficult conference. She stated there is no reason for committee to meet when there is no new information. No vote needed and the floor was opened for others to add information or ask questions. No one had questions or anything to add.
- Lynne plans to continue to follow information. Mark sent her more information today she will review. The committee has a google doc of all the articles they have reviewed. “Wonder Love and Praise” is over 50 pages long from United Methodist Church. Lynne has it available for if others would like to read. The Global Methodist church has a good public webpage.
- Betty and Mark thanked Lynne for her time and energy navigating this.

Betty opened the floor for any additional announcement and reminders:

- No one had anything to add

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Betty led the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7: 43 PM.

Next Meeting: March 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM on Zoom.