

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Guiding Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2022—6:30 pm—Zoom Teleconference

Members Present:

Administration: Betty Schiele, Anne Boyle
SPRC: David Harmon
Trustees: Laura Godwin, Justin Coffey, Rob Heare
Finance: Chris Franklin, Kitty Ambers
Lay Leadership: Lynne Kelly, Mark James
Secretary: Dani Corrigan
Lead Pastor: Justin White

St. Mark's Staff Present: Hannah Hopper

CALL TO ORDER (6:31)

Betty called the meeting to order and conducted roll call.

DEVOTION – Laura Godwin

Laura discussed the Buffalo grocery store shooting over the weekend which targeted an African America neighborhood. She recalled the August 2019 massacre in El Paso, Texas which targeted the Latino population. There are communities in pain. Our society does not treat everyone equally as it should. Corinthians 12: 25-26: *So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.* United Methodist Principle reminds us “We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person’s value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened.”

Some days are hard and we often want to ask “why does God let bad things happen to good people?” It is futile to ask why. Laura reminded us “I don’t have to save the world; Jesus already did this. I just have to serve it.” When we don’t know what to say, we can pray.

OPENING PRAYER- Laura Godwin

Laura shared three prayers from her Episcopal school prayer book for social justice, guidance and to St. Francis from her Episcopal school prayer book.

PRAISES (6:38)

- Laura shared that this is the first Trustees report since Summer 2021 that does not include HVAC issues.

MINUTES (6:39)- Betty Schiele

The April 18, 2022, meeting minutes were reviewed. No changes were proposed. The minutes were approved unanimously.

FINANCE (6:41): Reports in Google Docs

Chris Franklin informed:

- April P&L Highlights:
 - Total Revenue \$59,000.00. This is \$2,800.00 over budget and considerably higher than last year.
 - Plate offerings are trending positively.
 - Electronic offerings are a little down
 - Rentals continue to be strong.
 - Expenses are \$4,300.00 better than budget and about even from last year.
 - Net income was positive for the month with \$10,600.75 income.
- YTD P&L Highlights:
 - Total Revenue is \$217,000.00. About \$20,000.00 better than last year. A reminder that a budget is the best guess as to what will happen.
 - Total expenses were favorable with \$11,000.00 better than budget but is \$5,600.00 over last year.
 - Net income is positive for YTD at \$12,115.00; \$1,200.00 better than budget and \$15,000.00 better than last year.
- Balance Sheet Highlights:
 - Total savings: \$215,000.00
 - Capital Campaign fund is \$105,000.00
 - Sanctuary Loan HVAC has been paid off with Capital Campaign funds including a \$300 processing fee.
- Questions and comments.
 - Justin White reported that a church family would like to gift the church real estate. The property is a duplex in Canton, Ohio. The church will be selling this property and the current property management group is in the process of buying it. Justin talked with Vicky Roberson regarding this matter. It is currently set to close on June 30, 2022, and the goal is to get the properties deeded to the church prior to this. This should net \$200,000.00. Justin will be in communication with Trustees and Finance committees regarding this.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (6:47)

Justin White informed:

- To date we have \$526,500.00 pledged and have received \$136,000.00.
- Starting next month, Chris will add updates to Capital Campaign in the finance reports regarding what is received and where money is going.
- Anne asked if it would be helpful to give updates to the congregation. Bert gave the Capital Campaign committee a schedule to do this.

- Justin will announce within the next two weeks that the sanctuary HVAC is paid off. They will ensure the proposed planned percentages are followed that was promised in the campaign.
- \$24,000 remaining funds from previous Capital Campaign has been moved to new Capital Campaign account.

STAFF RETREAT (6:51) Justin White

- Two weekends ago staff had a retreat with presentation from an outside leader. They are working on ensuring all visions are working together.
- They worked to set goals for the next six months that include inviting new people to St. Mark's and bringing St. Mark's into the community.
- It was an excellent afternoon. They took new staff photos. Photos are updated on the website.

TRUSTEES (6:53)- Report in Google Docs

Laura Godwin informed:

- The bus has been repaired and now has a catalytic converter clamp. Thanks to Matt West for being the caretaker for the bus.
- The fellowship wall has been fixed and is only to be moved by the maintenance team. The staff and worship teams have been trialing the wall positioning for Sunday mornings. They will take a portion of the wall down for coffee hours to help with the flow in the area. The total bill for the repair was \$1,400.00 in which the part only cost \$175.00. The labor was very expensive.
- There is one quote for the gym floor. They are working to get second quote. The rental income for the gym continues to increase so it will likely be a project for next summer to ensure rentals are still able to use the gym for basketball.
- Flynn's Plumbing came out on May 10 to fix the bent pipe in the courtyard. The storm water drain had been placed on top of the pipe and it was pushing the plumbing pipe. They brought in additional equipment the next day and fixed it. There is a large hole in the courtyard, please be careful out there. Concrete will be poured soon.
- Trustees have been approached about the Dominion Energy rebate program. They are currently consulting church members on if this a possibility.
- Work is underway to ensure the emergency lights in the Fellowship Hall are working properly. They are currently on one breaker and this needs to be changed.
- Trustees and staff are working on finishing the asset inventory. The church has a lot of chairs!
- Security issue has been moved from deciding to informing as more information was brought to the Trustees today. They received quotes including basic cameras up to full perimeter service which is 12 cameras. Trustees think the best option is in the middle which is about 5 cameras. This will allow more cameras to be added if needed. Trustees are currently checking the quality of the cameras to make sure they are useful and will report back to Guiding Council.

Deciding

- Laura has been working with Banks Buchanan to find a commercial freezer. There are currently waiting lists for commercial freezers. If one becomes available, it will need to be purchased promptly. They estimated the wait to be anywhere from 3 weeks to 6 months after ordering. Banks feels it will be here by September. There are funds available from Capital Campaign due

to exceeding the goal and because of individual donors. The cost should be between \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00. Laura anticipated this to be covered half from donors and half from Capital Campaign.

- Laura moved to purchase the freezer. Chris discussed having a maximum budget for the freezer. There was an addendum to the motion to ensure the cost of the freezer is under \$5,000.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

VISION COUNCIL (7:04)- Reports in Google Docs

Betty informed for Sarah Vaughn:

GROW

- Children Ministry Team
 - Ten Bibles were presented to 2nd to 5th graders on Mother's Day.
 - There will be the first fifth Sunday mission event this Sunday.
 - A new curriculum was purchased and will be used this fall.
 - Goal is to have summer Sundays filled with volunteers to give regular workers the summer off. People are encouraged to volunteer for just one Sunday.
- Student Ministry Team
 - 17 middle schoolers and 3 high schoolers attended a lock-in in April.
 - Youth Group will have an end of year party next Sunday.
 - There is a mission trip to Virginia Beach planned.
- Adult Ministry Team
 - Grow hour is going well.
 - Kara Walsh is transitioning to position of AMT chair. More updates will come as she works with the team.
- Worship Ministry Team
 - Great worship attendance especially for the 11:00 service.
 - Selina will be out this summer so many volunteers will help fill her role. Betty will be one of the volunteers.
 - Raleigh Ringers will be performing at Brandermill Church on August 28. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Children under 12 will be free as Selina has worked this out since Kaleidoscope will not be happening and there are funds from that to cover the cost. This is a joint effort between Brandermill Church and St. Mark's.

LOVE

- Congregational Care Team
 - Delivered Mother's Day plants to homebound members.
 - They would like to have more team members.
- Service to Others
 - Rise Against Hunger will happen in the fall.
- Outreach and Witness Team
 - Vacation Bible School will be in the evenings June 20-June 24. They need volunteers.
 - Friday night will be food truck for the whole church.

Hannah left the meeting. (7:10)

SPR (7:10)- Report in Google Docs,

David Harmon informed:

- The Wright family will be joining Woodlake UMC due to geographical reasons and having friends there. Sarah will be leaving Guiding Council and SPR. She offered to finish out her term, but David and Justin decided that was not necessary. Her position will be filled in 2023.
- Betty let David know that Julie is dealing with health concerns so it will just be David in the short term.
- Anne wanted to make sure everyone responded to the Pastor assessment survey and David thanked everyone for their participation with that.

PATH FORWARD (7:13) Report in Google Docs

Lynne Kelly informed:

- There is new information in the Google Docs folder in May 2022 reports: General Conference. If you find additional new information, please send it to Lynne and she will add it.
- The information we have is still confusing. Different groups are doing different things and trying to decide what is going to happen. Lynne and Mark will continue to keep information in Google Docs updated.
- New information from Justin this evening from Team Jeremiah. This is a group that has been formed to answer questions regarding General Conference. They presented last week. There is a link to this presentation and the agenda in the Google Docs. There is a zoom meeting on May 31st.
- Betty asked if there has been an update regarding postponement or cancellation of the General Conference.
 - Justin reported that this is an important decision whether General Conference 2020 is postponed or cancelled. If it is cancelled, then all the work including propositions for 2020 will be lost.
- Anne will be attending Annual Conference for Virginia this year. This is different from General Conference.
- Betty reported that from watching the videos she feels St. Mark's is not necessarily on one side or the other. We are more in the middle at this time. The goal is to represent all the sides and stay up to date. It may be different people on Guiding Council who make these decisions in the future. We will not present to the church at this time but will be prepared as needed. We need to continue to be the loving and welcoming St. Mark's Community that we always are.
- Please contact Justin, Betty or Lynne with any questions. Justin is well versed in the matter.

Betty opened the floor for any additional announcements and reminders:

- Betty reported that Sarah Vaughan had pointed out that the June meeting is at the same time as evening Vacation Bible School. We will not be changing the meeting time as Guiding Council was on the calendar first. We will be missing people whether or not we change the time of the meeting.
- Trustees' workday is June 4. There will be large equipment to remove the sheds. They do not need additional volunteers.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Betty led the with closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.
Next Meeting: June 20, 2022, at 6:30 PM on Zoom.