



University Park United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
February 26, 2024
Gathering Area

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Joe Stobaugh, Emma Williams, David Tabor, Lee Wiley, Joe Brannon, Constance Harp, Ann Parker, Thomas Wainscott, Dub Newman, Lary Hooten, Brooke Messer, Mike Bennett, Diane Brooks, Jillian Bunn, Lauri Hainsfurther and Scott Gregory.

WELCOME - David Tabor welcomed everyone.

OPENING Prayer - Mike Bennett opened the meeting with prayer.

GO-AROUND QUESTION - Joe Stobaugh asked everyone to share their name, Council position and one function the church provides that is essential to our mission field. Several members shared that our church teaches our children about serving. Our church provides space for our mission partners. Our church is a place of calm. Our church provides ways for members to share their gifts for God. The presence of God is felt in our church. Our church provides a community for relationships and support. Our church provides adult fellowship and opportunities to bond with others. Youth is the hope for our future. Our church permeates the world in a lot of ways. Our church provides a role of developing relationships in Christian faith. Our church offers the opportunity to move from consumers to creators. Our church equips us to share the love of God within and beyond the walls of our church. Our children's ministry is strong and fosters relationships. Joe asked if anyone would notice if our church was not here tomorrow? The responses were all affirmative.

Lambeth Bible Study: Matthew 28:19-20 - Joe shared that the scripture imperative is to grow people's discipleship.

PPRC Update

Lary Hooten said he will do the Marks of Fruitfulness reviews with Joe and Emma Williams. He said Joe and Emma shared their recent staff evaluations. Jillian Bunn began the discussion of a Recognition Policy.

LAY Leaders' Update

Jillian said the Metro District Laity Training we hosted went well. The Lay Leaders helped Carita Youngblood with the Senior Sunday reception. And they helped greet at the Youth Center Grand Opening. Easter egg stuffing will take place at 12:30 on March 3. She asked everyone to sign the staff birthday and anniversary cards and to sign up on the Prayer Chapel list.

TRUSTEES Update

Dub Newman said that work on the Pickwick entrance and sidewalk had been completed. Work on the fire alarm, elevator and tree lighting was completed. The sunk pumps are currently under assessment. The Weekday School will provide the work on the Colgate lawn. Extensive tree work is necessary in the front. The gutter work will soon be completed. The decision was made to change the insurance broker to John Stollenwerck, a principle at Plexis. Mike congratulated the Trustees on completing so many projects. Dub discussed the space swap with Project

Transformation on the south side of the second floor education wing. Dub said he talked with the Executive Director about terms of the new lease. He will present the proposal at the next board meeting. It will include a reduction in the lease rate. The church has offered to provide financial assistance to help them move into the new space. In return, we would move into their space. PT National will stay in the same space. Dub will send the project plan tomorrow. Joe said this is a phenomenal win win for the church! Lee Wiley said that GFF identified that the church has no main entry and he shared pictures of suggestions they had for the Caruth Lawn and Main Entry, including a patio area and arches with lights. He showed pictures they provided of the new Music Suite which will turn Christy's office and the communications office into a rehearsal room and music library and robing room. The ceilings will be vaulted to improve acoustics. Lee showed pictures of the Children's Entry from PickWick, including long banners allowed by the city. He also showed pictures of a revamped Children's Chapel with more vibrancy. He said this Capital Campaign allows us to focus on the needs to be done. Then, focus groups for the entire campus will meet after the debt is resolved.

FINANCE Update

Joe Brannon provided a confidential internal draft with actuals for 2023 and a refined 2024 budget. Revenues should increase by \$100,000 and expenses should increase by \$200,000 due to salaries, insurance and debt service. A deficit of \$274,000 is projected which is better than last year. We can use Forward Together funds to offset some of the deficit. We are in a better position than this time last year. He will present the final numbers next month.

Follow-Up on The Priorities of Our Church This Year

Joe said the Capital Campaign committee meets monthly. The Campaign will be moved to early fall. More touch points need to be made with higher level donors. Joe asked two questions, How can we better "show our work"? And how can we most authentically be ourselves as a church and share that with our mission field? We need to work on 7 Trends and how to tell our stories. How do we show the work we are doing? Our church is a place in which one will be supported and and be equipped to go out and share God's love and the unique gifts we have to offer. Joe said we are in competition with the secular world, not with other churches.

Packet and Consent Calendar Items- Joe reported that we had thirty-six members attending each of our Upper Room services the first two weeks. He provided the schedule for Holy Week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday noon services in the Activity Center, Holy Thursday service at 7pm and Good Friday Service at 7pm. Easter Sunday will include a Sunrise Service at 7am and traditional services at 9am and 11am. On April 7, during the Sunday School hour, a church wide session will include talk about the General Conference and a Pot Luck following the 11pm worship service. David said the next Church Council meeting will take place on March 25.

CLOSING Prayer

David closed the meeting in prayer.