



**University Park United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
October 28, 2024
Gathering Area**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Joe Stobaugh, Emma Williams, Lary Hooten, Lee Wiley, Brooke Messer, Holden Greer, Joe Brannon, Constance Harp, Dub Newman, Diane Brooks, Lauri Hainsfurther, Ann Parker, Dawn Moore, Mike Bennett and Early Dennison

WELCOME: Dawn Moore welcomed everyone.

OPENING Prayer: Joe Stobaugh opened the meeting with prayer.

GO-Around Question: Joe asked everyone to share their name, Council role and where they have seen God lately!

Joe read Matthew 22 about Jesus' teaching and quoted St Augustus about loving ourselves, God and neighbor. He announced Sunday will be All Saints Sunday. He shared that the church turns eighty-five years old on November 15. He may ask Marilyn Hamilton to share some memorabilia at the reception on November 17.

NOMINATIONS Report: Joe said we only have two positions to secure. We currently have a great mix of newcomers and longer term members.

CHARGE Council Date Set: Emma Williams announced that the Charge Council will be Sunday, November 17 at 3:00. She said we are the official voting body so she encouraged all of us to attend. Elden Cowley, our DS, will attend.

CAPITAL Campaign Update: Joe announced that the church raised \$4,073,193 and said God is doing something exciting at our church! The overage is great so we can retire flood debt.

PPRC Update: Ann Parker said that hiring a new facilities manager is a top priority. Two prospects will be interviewed tomorrow. Hopefully, the new manager will start by the end of the year. Emma and Joe are broadening the Communications Department and hope to have a plan in 2025. The Employers Handbook will be posted on the website. Marks of Fruitfulness evaluations are due to the DS by December 1.

FINANCE Update: Constance Harp distributed copies of the Gather Together Capital Campaign Results. We raised \$1,073,193! She said there were one hundred and eighteen commitments. Thirty were new givers. And twenty-five gifts were from members under the age of fifty. Follow-up letters will be sent to those who have yet to commit. Joe Brannon distributed copies of the budget report. He said we were up slightly through the first nine months of this year. Actual vs Budget is \$58,443. And we are \$119,357 over in expenses. Occupancy and Maintenance expenses include plumbing, electrical, HVAC and security issues. Missions Outreach Ministries variance will go away at the end of the year. We are \$17,000 away from where we should be. He said the fourth quarter is the biggest giving quarter. Constance said \$900,00 has been

committed to the Stewardship Campaign so far. Follow-up letters will be sent soon as a reminder.

TRUSTEES Update: Lee Wiley said we have finished the work in the east wing and Project Transformation is in the process of outfitting their new space and may be finished by November 1. He said the staff will move into the old PT space at the beginning of the year. There will be new lighting and paint in the former PT space. Phase 2 of the Capital Campaign drawings page by page with the final set of drawings and pricing are complete. On February 1, we plan to start on the music suite first and then the front entry way. The Children's area, Fellowship Hall and the Atrium Entrance will begin when school ends and hopefully finished by the end of summer. He asked us to be a voice of reason during all of this because it may possibly be uncomfortable getting there. Dub Newman said the summer programs may be disrupted. We need to be flexible to get in front of it. The plan should be finished by March 1. Voting is going well. We settled with insurance for the December 22 flood. We are still working on the chiller. The meeting with the WDS went well which is the first step to establish a path to a different relationship.

PACKET and Consent Calendar Items: Joe said we have an updated attendance report and a new digital overview dashboard. Website visits are up 58% and 90% in Realm. Christmas Eve services will take place at 11:00 am, 4:00 pm for family, 6:00 pm for choir with harp before and 11:00 pm in the Upper Room. Lary moved we approve the minutes from the September meeting, Dawn seconded and all approved.

COMMUNICATION and Next Steps: Joe asked everyone to keep doing what we are doing. He asked that we pray for the staff and church that people watch the lay video of why members should participate. He asked we be a witness of what we are doing in the church and creating a safe space for people who think differently. He asked that we be forces of good energy of what is happening at the church, staying on message and mindful of communicating in our small groups.