

## **Manchester United Methodist Church**

### **Generosity Win Team**

#### **Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2019**

**Attendees:** Phil Estes, David Bennett, Phil Wiseman, Rebecca Peterson, Kyle Peterson, Matt Pasley, Tom Hilton, Ed Crawford, Cheri Hoefflerlin, Craig Hoefflerlin, Tom Lawrence

The meeting began with all sharing joys and concerns. Phil E. then lifted those up in his opening prayer.

Phil E. then led a discussion and review of the process timetable which is attached as Exhibit I. Some of the key points that came out in the discussion-

- The recruiting of small group leaders for the “Defying Gravity” study is going well.
- The promotions for this churchwide initiative will begin August 25.
- Pastor Andy is very supportive of the overall direction of the 2019 Fall Initiative and is excited to be involved.
- The all-church Initiative Forum/Q&A scheduled for September 9 will be held in Fellowship Hall. Several potential locations for the September 6 Lead Gift dinner were discussed. A decision will be made at our next gathering.

David then led a discussion about the “Defying Gravity” initiative and we viewed the first session on the DVD that will be used by the small groups. Some of the points David made as well as his hopes for this spiritual journey are reflected in the document attached as Exhibit II.

Phil W. led a discussion about possible themes for the initiative. He utilized different “mood boards” to reflect the “feel” we would like to convey. The discussion centered on various tag lines, color schemes and visuals that we might use in this effort. Phil will take the input provided and come to our next meeting with refinements. We will finalize our decision at that time.

**Next Meeting:** July 29, 2019, 6pm, room 311

Rebecca closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hilton

**Exhibit I**  
**2019 Fall Initiative**  
**Steps to Success**  
**Update July 9, 2019**

**Stewardship Sermon Series**

- September 1 – Stewardship Teaser Sermon, “Doers of the Word”
- September 29 – Week 1
- October 6 – Week 2
- October 13 – Week 3
- Oct. 20 – Pledge Sunday, Week 4
  - Oct. 27 report results in service
  - Nov 3 report results in service/follow-up letter to non-pledged; Thank You to pledging households

**Pre-Work**

- July 8-29 – Recruit DG small group leaders; Contact leaders from Choir, Bike Rehab, Sunday School, Gen Team, FPU, etc. (Jim and Phil)
- W/O Aug 25 and Sept. 1 – Train the trainer (T<sup>2</sup>). Led by David, Jim & Phil
- Aug 18 groups final – Leaders identified, schedule set
- Aug 25 – Sept. 22 promote DG small groups sign-ups

**Other Events/Meetings/Communications**

- July – Second Quarter Report
- July – Send Invitation: Lead Gift HHs
- August – Announce Initiative Forum/Q&A; postcard, social media, email
- Late August – Update and display Capital Projects Progress Chart/Worship Slide (Slide date TBD w/Andy)
- September 6, Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Lead Gift gathering w/Pastors Andy & Phil

- September 9, Refreshments 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Initiative Forum/Q&A w/ Pastors Andy & Phil;
  - Dinner and Forum Items:
    - Possibly include testimony from WIN Team Leaders
    - Lead Gift/Forum Leave Behind – Goals/Objectives/Ask (Phil E., Phil W., Rebecca P.)
    - Venue options: Church, Off-Site?
    - Decorations?
- W/O September 23 – Send Fall Brochure/Pledge Card
- W/O September 29 – October 20, Begin DG Small Groups
- November 15 – mail 10-month giving statement
- January 2020 – Optional “Close the Gap” mailer; USPS, email, social media

**February 2020** – Financial Peace University church-wide winter study

**Completed YTD 2019:**

- February – Year-End Report
- March – Annual Report
- May – Pentecost Postcard; Birthday gift to the church: Capital Projects gifts

**Exhibit II**  
**MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**All Church Spiritual Life Journey**  
**“Defying Gravity”**  
**September 29 through October 20, 2019**  
**A four week small group adventure**

Have you ever felt like you were being pulled by invisible influences that direct your attention and behavior? Today’s web browsers are notorious for this. Persuasive forces are constantly influencing our daily choices. Rev. Tom Berlin, pastor and author of Defying Gravity, has determined that “gravity” is largely a spiritual matter when it comes to the ethical choices we make as Christians.

Jesus said, “*I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.*” (John 10:10) Are you living Jesus’ spiritually abundant life to the fullest or is something tying you down and holding you back? That’s spiritual gravity. Are you sharing the gifts God has given you or are you lying back for someone else to step forward? That’s spiritual gravity.

Frederick Buechner once said, “Getters get more, but givers become more.” It’s a spiritual thing. A life in pursuit of *getting more* is caught-up in the gravitational pull of self. But a life in pursuit of *giving more* creates a heart that *becomes more* and is set free.

This Fall MUMC is embarking on an all church spiritual journey to “defy gravity” and live into a more abundant life. We will discover new ways God can set us free to live life to the fullest.

**Prayer of Preparation**

Generous God, I thank you for the abundant and amazing gifts you give to me each day. I want to be free of spiritual gravity and live my life to the fullest. Be present with me as I decide about joining others on this journey. In Jesus name. Amen.

Rev. David Bennett