

Manchester UMC Leadership Board Agenda

July 9, 2023

Minutes

Room 220 and Zoom, 3 - 5 pm

Secretary: Kelly Wicks

- 3:04 Meeting Called to Order – In attendance: Kim West (via Zoom), June Van Klaveren, Dave Divjak, Izzy Massey, John Higdon, Joy Parisien, Kelly Wicks, John Miller, Craig Looney, Joe Elstner, Kristi Koehl, Suzanne Shimkus (arrived late), Winter Hamilton, Andy Bryan, Andy Blacksher, John Himpel, Susanne Mertens; Not Present: Chris Almeida and Sue Belval.

- John Miller - Devotional
 - Joys and Concerns –
 - Rev Andy B wedding
 - Kelly W – Debbie cancer concern
 - Kristi – Vacation gratitude

- 3:08 Old Business (20 min)
 - Approve May '23 Meeting Minutes – Joe E. motion to approve, John Higdon 2nd. Unanimous approve
 - Reception for Pastor Andy Blacksher: July 16 – John in charge
 - From last month - Identified Areas of Focus: (I)
 - Generosity (July, October), Congregational Care/Hospitality (August, November), Engagement (September, December)
 - Property Sale Update:
 - Listing Proposal for Lot 232 – Email from Nick McGeehon to Kristi Koehl 6/12 - \$8,000 offer to purchase from adjacent owner. Property is land locked & not large enough to build on. Nick will waive his commission fee. Dave motion to list property for \$10 k with Nick, with note that accept \$8K. Izzy 2nd – unanimous pass.
 - Update re: Sale of 220 Creve Coeur – Email from Phil Estes to Kristi Koehl re: conversation w/ Property Manager John Beaver – March 31,2024 is when lease is up. Renovation may bring more money – 300-315 as is. With 50K invested may get 400K. If we notify the tenants that our intent is to sell & will release them without penalty, they may vacate earlier. We will have John notify the tenant of our intent to sell.
 - Rescheduled Property Walk-Through with Staff – Tabled for now; However Board would like to be included when Walk-Throughs start occurring with Andy Blacksher.
 - Discussion on HVAC settings for temperature.
 - Maintenance schedule – board to see this – Will get from Rev. Andy Bryan
 - Paulette (Rev. Andy Bryan & Rev Winter Hamilton as well) is the point person for now, to transfer to Rev. Andy Blacksher

- Congregational Input (5 min) No one scheduled

- 3:27: Area of Focus Update (30 min)
 - Generosity
 - Guest: Committee Member **Susanne Mertens**
 - Goals:
 - grow undesignated giving by 3%
 - Discipleship instead of fundraising
 - Intentional giving as a % of income

- Updates from last meeting
 - 242,0700 matching gift – By end of 2022
 - Disciple promises cards – 3 times during year – What does discipleship giving mean? Pray about it.
 - Pastors regularly remind congregation about discipleship with giving
 - Thank you notes to first time givers or those who have increased.
 - Planning on: calls to those who have stopped giving, personal visits, Kiosk in the library, quarterly reports to the congregation
- Plans for next meeting/Proposed Future Actions – August 14th is next meeting
 - Generosity Team: Andy Bryan, David Bennett, Laura Checkett, Emily Garetson, Winter Hamilton, Jill Krogen, Tom Lawrence, Suzanne Mertens, Kim West & Bryan White
- 3:41 Department Updates – Pastor Andy
 - Operations and Generosity (Financial Update)
 - High level May 2023 Summary – As per Rev. Andy Bryan
 - May was better, but we are still under budget and in a deficit
 - Concerned but not panicked
 - Circle of Friends is doing well – that goes back into the school
 - Ministry and Leadership
 - **Rev Andy Bryan reporting**
 - Vacation Bible School time
 - Next week – Youth at Spirit Camp – 89 total
 - Adult Faith Formation groups – some are still meeting over the summer
 - Walk Justly Conference
 - **Rev. Winter Hamilton reporting**
 - Altar Study will start in August – Christian Identity
 - Youth 23 – Quarterly gatherings of youth
 - Spirit Camp Reunion
 - Lifewise Sneakers – Aug 12
 - Adult Faith Formation – Some material that may be of help on financial discipleship.
 - **Rev Andy Blacksher** – Happy to be here
 - Misc Lead Pastor Update (Open Session)
 - Discussion on Saving Grace & Dave Ramsey – Should we look at this? Rev Winter believes it should come from a lay person. John Miller thoughts. Will aim for Jan 1 to try to get a class on this.
 - Discussion on Ground around the church – John Hempel reported & was asked to get a group of volunteers to help.
- 4:09 Closed Session – John Hempel departed – no notes
 - Lead Pastor Update – Staff Concerns (Closed Session)
- 4:34 Closing Prayer (**John Higdon**)
- 4:35 meeting adjourned

Next Meeting:

August 13 Room 141 and Zoom, 3-5

Secretary: David Divjak

Devotional: Izzy Massey

Closing Prayer: Kristi Koehl