

Secretary: Suzanne

Attendance: John H, Dave, Craig, June, Robin Bell (DS), Joy, Sue, Kelly, Kim, Izzy, Andy Bryan, Andy Blacksher, Joe, John Heskett, Sarah Bebee, John Himple

Zoom: John Miller—tried to log in, had trouble with audio

Absent: Chris Almeida

3:00 Call to Order: John Higdon

Introductions due to a few visitors, new members

Craig: Motion to Vote on Nominations of John Heskett and Sarah Bebee

Joe: 2nd

Unanimous vote to approve

Devotional: Sue

Joys and Concerns:

Kim: contacted by someone who wrote a strong letter to the board and called. Asked to remain anonymous and asked us not to take her letter personally.

Kelly: enjoyed sitting in sanctuary today for service

Andy Blacksher: lake house under contract

Andy Bryan: gratitude for team who planned Homecoming today

Sue: sang in Chancel choir with her daughter and granddaughter (and husband)

John Heskett: Bill Parker, friend who had critical heart attack last night, blocked arteries, son also passed this year

Izzy: Motion to pass minutes from last month

Sue: 2nd

Unanimous vote to approve

Dave: update on sale on land property behind the parsonage. Issues with title.

Plats were conveyed but technically in ownership already by the people who own the home and are willing to purchase it. No option to get the money from it. Plans to talk to a lawyer friend.

Speculation about what we need to do now. If prospective owners already own it, what can we do?

Robin: suggested a gentleman's agreement for a donation to the church.

John H: 223 Creve Couer sale—Kristi spoke to rental company to give the tenants notice.

Someone needs to contact rental company. Dave volunteered or Andy Blacksher. Written notification (per lease agreement) needs to be given.

No new business!

Dept. updates

Andy Bryan: spoke to usage of room 226 and how this space is big enough to house board AND visitors, if an open meeting.

Old Board meeting space is new bell room.

Strategic Plan-Century 3 update: update on Connectionalism, new goals

- reassessment of our mission, vision, and public statement to community
- survey targeted ¼ of congregation, outcome showed confusion over mission and vision
- mission and vision are shown in confusing way on website, "mission and vision"

together

-task force looked at all 3 statements to help clarify, make them brief and sharable

-recommendations:

Mission- to make a difference for Christ in the world.

Vision- to extend divine love and grace to ALL as God transforms the church, the community, and the world.

Also part of Vision: Together we- love, worship, and serve Christ

- build diverse, inclusive community
- inspire deeper understanding of God
- these are still in "workshop" phase, not up for vote yet
- questions over listing various demographics, "tokenism," is it time to remove those?
- task force wants to remove Welcome Statement due to above concern

John Higdon: likes the conciseness

Joe: welcome statement sounds like signaling

Craig: welcome statement is wordy and run risk of exclusion, this vision gets to the point, includes all

Sarah: didn't remember welcome statement

June: statement should be memorable and able to be recited. The previous one is not.

Andy: task force will take this to a focus group

Sarah: likes the poster on the doors where it lists out the demographics as bullet points, for the visual-minded, feels very welcomed and free to invite others to come, proud of it

John Heskett: mission is crisp and to the point. Vision pointed out word "ALL" and that it means ALL.

Kim: ALL means all, even with our actions

Sarah: do you think we need to keep the wording?

Kim: be clear about what we mean, DO some things that reflect our beliefs

Andy: this statement came to be when we decided to be a reconciling congregation. We won't be a reconciling congregation BUT we will announce this welcome statement in its place. We have reconciling groups and members as reconciling network (advocacy group/caucus group).

Robin: congregation would have to 100% support vote to support financially and with letters to leaders, etc.

Kelly: any other Caucuses in UMC?

Robin: oh yes! Listed several.

Sarah: wanted clarification on the welcome statement vs reconciling church

Andy: clarified

Lots of continued discussion about this welcome statement.

Andy: July financial statement packets

Very far off budget for revenue and expenses, have been for awhile

Giving was fantastic in July

Robin: why was July so great?

Andy: worship service theme was "We are Manchester"

Cash Reserves: days in reserve went from 101-110. Goal is 90 days.

Generosity team meeting on 9/18

2 members of congregation have made matching gift offers for the fall! Very generous! (one of these people did a matching gift before)

Bequests: very significant one coming in the fall, undesignated, treated like an endowment, invest them and use the interest, very generous

Andy continues to write thank you notes for first time givers and contact big gift givers

Fall campaign: no letter-writing, but reminders

John Heskett: asked about impediments to strategic planning due to lack of revenue?

Andy: ministry leaders have experiences some fatigue in doing things creatively in keeping their ministry going, resources have impacted staff, lack of staff raises last year, many do their own fundraisers

Andy 2: desperately need a maintenance person! Staff cuts are notable.

John Heskett: honest communication about what is NOT being done for lack of funds goes a long way, personalizes it

Nominations: lots of YES, only one said NO. New leaders starting in 2024.

Special annual conference coming up to vote on disaffiliations. Several more are choosing to disaffiliate.

MO delegation: 2020 general conference in Charlotte. Andy Bryan is head of MO delegation, with 24 going to conferences. Will be in Columbia for those meetings on Saturdays.

Charge Conference in Jan.

Last meeting of the year, we have to approve everything in Dec, then board meeting, new members begin on Jan 1.

Operations:

Andy Blacksher: moved \$300,000 into 3, 6, 12-month of CDs, leave ½ mil in checking, 4% in money market account

Moving medical, dental, and vision insurance is changing to Conference, end of November, hope to be more stable plan

Send concerned Board Buddies back to Andy Blacksher

Andy Bryan: Board Buddy program is supposed to be social. If concerns, please send them back to clergy.

Director of Communications position is still open. Need to fill this role.

Andy 2 has started meeting with staff, they are dedicated and amazing, great team
Tiffany has all volunteers for all of Fall for community dinners!
Beth has all of her HS youth leader spots filled. Only down 1-2 leaders.
Whole staff going to Zoo this Thursday! Lunch at the Art Museum.
Andy's first 2 weeks of renewal leave 9/18-10/2. One month every 4 years. Working on his
doctorate.
Core values discernment process upon his return.

Closing prayer by Kelly
Adjourned at 4:33