

# Minutes and Agenda of the MUMC Leadership Board

March 10, 2024 Monthly Meeting 3:00 – 5:00PM  
Room 311 / Zoom ID 925 6848 4701 / Password 177678

**Attendance:** John Heskett, Sue Belval, Suzanne Shimkus, Rev. Andy Blacksher, Craig Looney, Doug Christopher, Joe Elstner, Izzy Massey, John Miller, Jennifer Forsythe, Joy Parisien, Dave Divjak, Kandi Karger-Robinson, Mindy Brinkhorst, Sara Beebe, Kelly Wicks  
3 visitors: Mary Taber, Neil Ebersoldt, Linda Horodenski

**3:00 Call to Order-** John Heskett  
Minutes – Suzanne Shimkus  
Devotion – Joy Parisien

## **Joys and Concerns:**

-Andy Blacksher shared his doctoral paper and that his public presentation is next Sunday at 12:30

**Prayer** – John Heskett  
-shared card from Mary Beth Hartenstein

## **Congregational Input (10 Minutes):**

-Neil Ebersoldt thanked the board for leading through a tough transition in the church with human resources issues, asking to keep the congregation informed as much as we can - suggested to give a 10-minute update at service quarterly re budget, giving, etc.  
-Mary Taber reiterated Neil's thoughts and stressed open communication

**Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes** – John  
-unanimously approval

## **Discussion Items (30 Minutes)**

-Financials - January was off by \$7,000, deficit of \$14,000, not really due to carpet  
-Expense for carpet from Circle of Friends hit in January.  
-125.41 days in reserve  
-Endowment committee met and will pay out 4% payout to accounts, accounts are very specific  
-"Quasi" Endowment fund is determined by the board, carpet came from this  
-Endowment is usually earmarked for a specific thing vs Quasi is not earmarked, is treated like any other endowment, but can be used at board discretion  
-Kandi Karger-Robinson asked about the Youth vans, van fund contains \$3000, new vans are currently budgeted, vans did pass safety inspection with limited maintenance, uncomfortable not necessarily unsafe - no AC, no seatbelts, need to give thoughtful consideration to issue, staff provide a budget consideration to board, give Board options for what needs to be done with transportation issue, purchase? Lease? Would 1 larger bus suffice over 2 smaller? (Beth)  
-Izzy Massey asked about scholarships for seniors, Choir provides one for "musical" students and emailed info to their seniors, Youth scholarships went away when auction went away  
-*Tentative* Feb. financials look good - revenue up from last year

**Options Regarding the Use of Funds from Sale of House** – Dave Divjak, Kelly Wicks, Rev. Blacksher

**Roof Repair, Loan Paydowns, Capital Improvement Fund**

- how to spend \$301,000
- roof? Flat spots on sides are bubbling up, and water sits until it evaporates - water damage.
- bid to replace those side panels = \$88,200 (better of 2 bids)
- Andy gave a lesson on money and budget re roofs and previous insurance conversation from Feb
- current mortgage is \$329,000 - do we pay this down? 4% until June 2025
- expecting \$87,490 from endowment and to apply this directly to the roof cost of \$88,200
- looking for a 3rd bid - Sara Beebe will reach out to a roofer to put in contact with Scott Harman
- possibly put proceeds into a maintenance fund for emergency use: HVAC, etc.
- what are other needs, like busses, that we don't know about that could use this money?
- Plan - \$100,000 used to pay down loan*
  - \$201,000 capital improvements fund*
  - \$87,490 from endowment fund to pay off the roof*
- Craig Looney made a motion for this above plan. Kandi Karger-Robinson 2nd. Unanimous vote for approval.

**Rev. Mary Beth Hartenstein Comments Regarding Prayer Support for Transitions** – John

- how to help address congregation and provide support for them
- Mary Beth said we could NOT use Stephen Ministers, she would like to sit with Board to brainstorm ways to help support people struggling with transition, a “Season of Prayer”
- Nancy Dunlap is willing to help support an effort to assist this transition as well
- Subcommittee to sit with Mary Beth and Nancy to meet these needs
- Joe wondered if it would be wise to focus our attention first on those who feel most aggrieved or upset by what has transpired. Worries about dredging up feelings from others who are just trying to move on.
- Mindy questioned how to identify those who are still struggling without understanding the HR concerns of what can't be shared.
- John Heskett suggested self-selection in participation in some sort of group, especially with leadership of Mary Beth (staff) and Nancy (nonstaff).
- Andy shared that he spoke with Mary Beth and Nancy and the thought was the possibility of them announcing/advertising that one might be sitting in a room all day on a specific day for anyone who would like to speak with them.
- John H will follow up and speak with them. Sue, Sara, and Joy will meet with them to work towards a plan for transition.
- Motion to move forward with making a plan - Kandi, Jennifer-2nd, unanimous vote

**Interim Pastor and Associate Pastor Reports (20 Minutes)**

- Kurt not present
- Andy has said everything he needed to say

**Motion to Move to Executive Session** - Sue, Suzanne-2nd, unanimous vote for closed session

Closing Prayer – Sue Belval

Adjourn