

Minutes from **Leadership Board (LB)** meeting on Thursday September 21, 2023

Present: Pastor Jenny Arneson, Pastor Claire Douglass, Jack Malone, Lisa Wink, Sarah Bolen, Patricia Harrington, Judy Krebs, Paul Esser, Dee Heller, Christy Tubbs, Cheri Hiller

Absent: Terry Twedell, Pat Flaherty

1. **Welcome** –Jack
2. **Consensus to** accept May 2023 minutes as submitted
3. **Devotions** – Dee. – Cast your cares upon Him.
4. **Staff Sharing** – Rev. Claire Douglass, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation – Claire provided a great update of her ministry programs. We have a new church school curriculum that is play based for up to 2nd grade. Logos has ended and our weekly programming will be called Circuit. It will be held 5:30-7pm and is not tied to a day of the week. It has the flexibility to grow and change. Children’s ministry is seeing more kids in church school rather than Wednesday nights. Middle school and High school youth has moved to Sundays and higher numbers are attending. There were 26 VBS mentors! Five youth and three adults went on a mission trip. More have been attending weekend retreats. Club 3-4-5 will be monthly as a bridge from Circuit o youth group. Trunk or Treat will be October 29 10-11 a.m. In the young adult ministry – 17 scholarships were awarded and 16 have already been dispersed. Gift cards will go to college students in winter. Thank you for your ministry, Claire!
5. **Spiritual Formation-** Jack, Patricia, and Sarah – They attended a workshop on Taking Leadership Board concept to the next level. They summarized: How to engage people with topics such as growing generous givers, growing new leaders, expanding outreach, welcoming specific groups such as vets, ethnic groups, Methodists, etc., how to amp up 3rd quarter giving. The idea is to see the church as a garden - growing new/additional crops. Our next plan for ministry will be BEYOND OUR DOORS. Question: What is SPUMC known for? Garage Sale, being open to the community, our partnership with Northside Elementary, VBS... We can provide values to the community at large through outreach, online, etc. What does SPUMC look like in the future?
6. **Finance/Stewardship:** Sarah, Lisa, Jenny
 - Currently we are fairly close to ‘even’
 - Giving isn’t below pledged, but we didn’t pass a balanced budget, so giving doesn’t match expenses
 - Cash on hand – plentiful
 - August capital outlay of \$2500 for a camera system at the office door. Abby can see all doors and talk to people before letting them in. Jenny can also access from home.
 - Mortgage was 617K at end of August! 21K interest paid through August. We continue to pay additional 3K to principle each month.
 - We are current on mortgage and apportionments.
 - 2024 apportionments will be increased about \$7700 to \$95,940 based on our expenses and membership.
 - In October we will discuss paying down the mortgage with another “chunk”.
 - **MOTION: Remove Laura Meixner, due to retirement, from bank account at Bank of Sun Prairie, and add Abigail Hawkinson as a signer. MOTION PASSED**
 - 2021 and 2022 Fund balance sheets will be completed before church conference in December.

- Applied for and received a conference grant of \$1800 to cover new pulpit.
 - October stewardship focus is: Keep our United Methodist Story Growing, during four Sundays in October. Pledge cards will be returned on All Saints Sunday – October 29.
 - 195K gift from Bashford UMC is now \$202K.
 - **MOTION: Use 10K from the Bashford UMC gift to give to SPRC to use for recognizing lay staff who worked above and beyond while both Pastor Jenny and Pastor Claire were absent. MOTION PASSED**
 - Discussion of remaining Bashford gift. – It was given with no conditions. Ideas were mortgage, (maybe not because Bashford members didn't incur the debt), some kind of memorial to the members – something they can see, money towards youth programming.
7. Greenspace: Jack
The project is moving along. The space will be 2500 square feet. Team is entertaining ideas on how to make beautiful spaces, memory gardens. Trustees looking at water issues. Goal is to have all plans formulated for the congregation by the beginning of 2024.
8. **Trustees:** Judy
- The kitchen hallway is covered.
 - Drainage ditch – Roter Rooter will deal with the lateral – flush, look with camera. Hope to replace with a system that doesn't get plugged and take care of holding ponds. Hoping that cleanout will improve drainage.
8. **SPRC:** Jenny
- SPRC will start budgeting process in October
 - Abby is a delight and a blessing, with lots of ideas!
9. **Other:**
- Outreach – Patricia: Patricia sent us a report. Outreach is trying to do one thing each month.
 - Invitation to visitors/new people to Fellowship Time. Jack suggests that Leadership Board members can volunteer each week to spend fellowship time with visitors/new members.
 - Safe Sanctuaries – Claire; Photo release has been added. Background check WAS paper and manually entered. Now they will be sent as a secure link.
 - **MOTION: Update our background check process to a secure online process, and add a photo release to the safe sanctuaries manual. MOTION PASSED.**
 - Lay member to annual conference in 2024 (June 7-9) We will have three lay members. Marcia Flaherty is one, and we need two more.
 - We need two more at large members added to Leadership Board. Jack suggested two Bashford people for the lay leader role and the leadership board positions.

Closing prayer: Dee

Next meeting is – October 26, 6:30 pm

- **Opening devotions** and closing prayer: Patricia
- **Minutes** – Cheri
- **Schedule:** 2023 schedule: November 16

Submitted by Cheri Hiller