

Minutes from **Leadership Board (LB)** meeting on Thursday February 22, 2024

Present: Pastor Jenny Arneson, Jack Malone, Sarah Bolen, Patricia Harrington, Dee Heller, Christy Tubbs, Terry Twedell, Pat Flaherty, Marcia Flaherty, Mike Bandli, Frank Flynn, Cheri Hiller

Absent: Pastor Claire Douglass, Lisa Wink, Pastor Brad Mather

1. **Welcome** -Jack
2. **Consensus** to accept February minutes as submitted
3. **Devotions** – Marcia – Matthew 6:1-6 Devotion from Disciplines. Prayer in nature, taking time to reflect during hiking, etc.

4. **Spiritual Formation**- Jenny – General Conference review and update. The 2024 theme is Psalm 46:10: Be still and know that I am God. Our refuge and our strength. The general conference body makes UM decisions. 852 delegates, ½ lay and ½ clergy, plus observers and workers, etc, will meet for two weeks beginning April 22, 2024. The worldwide conference will be conducted in many languages, read and vote on over 1100 petitions while the Bishops preside. The delegates represent the 53 US and 80 other worldwide conferences. The first week will be legislative sessions. Jenny attends the Church and Society 2 legislative session. This year their priority issues are 1-Global Regionalization – making regions of culturally similar conferences so that they can have their own books of discipline to reflect their culture. This would require a constitutional change/two thirds vote worldwide. 2-Remove harmful language to LGBTQ persons, neutralizing the language. 3-Revise some social principles to make them more concise with updated language. We can go to the conferences website to see links to learning sites about these and other topics of the general conference and actually watch the second week of Plenary starting on April 29 until May 4.

5. **Finance/Stewardship:** Sarah
 - Mortgage will be under 500k in three months! We continue to pay additional 3K to principle each month.
 - Current on mortgage and apportionments
 - January finances down about 3K due to snow/salt and Wesley house washer repair
 - In 2023, in addition to the 88K in apportionments we also gave over 14k to Sunshine place Sun Prairie groups and 41K to other world missions. Beyond Our Doors!

6. **Trustees:** Mike,
 - Have bid for pantry flooring repair (will be paid by donation)
 - Roofing leaks – same situation
 - Have a bid for replacing the server door
 - SPNS rent discussion. Janitorial and maintenance expenses factored in. Trustees suggesting \$300/month increase to make rent equal \$2300/month.
 - **MOTION: Increase SPNS monthly rent by \$300 to \$2300. Motion passed.**

7. **SPRC:** Pat
 - Chris Hale has started in the office and it is going well!
 - Will post the Children’s Ministry position soon. Need to fill it by June or before.

8. Other:

- BEYOND OUR DOORS leadership retreat – Jenny: The workshop was in January. There is a Mission Insight website, she shared about the Patrick Marsh initiative, next 10 years: Sun Prairie will experience moderate growth but there will be a decline in children
- Outreach Team: Patricia shared- We do Sunshine Supper 4x/year, our loose coins go to many organizations, Stuff the Bus is \$ rather than stuff since covid, Giving tree provides gifts to 125 children annually, dropping Faith in Action weekend due to falling member response, we are great at bringing things in when asked, and at the upcoming confirmation retreat confirmands will shop for and pack 60 bags of groceries for food-insecure Northside families.
- Scholarships: Terry reported that applications are going out soon and will be due on April 4. There will be a new scholarship this year from the Gray family.
- Table at Fellowship Time – Jack has seen great success with people who visit. It would be great if people with children could be at the table. Attend when you can!
- Voting on additional lay member to Annual conference. Mike Vavrus will be moving and Linda Whitelock will replace him. Linda can't attend this year, so it is proposed that Jack M attend this year (with Marcia Flaherty).
- **MOTION: Jack Malone will be our second lay member to 2024 Annual Conference, taking Linda Whitelock's place. Motion passed.**

- **Closing prayer:** Marcia

2024 Ministry Focus: Beyond Our Doors

Next meeting is – March 21, 2024 6:30 pm

- **Opening devotions** and closing prayer: Dee
- **Minutes** – Dee
- **Upcoming 2024 meetings:** May 23

Submitted by Cheri Hiller