



Leadership Board Minutes for October 4, 2022
Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive
Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Kim Bimestefer (Co-Chair)
Lacye Cahill
Susan Gustin
David Haukeness
Keith Johnson
Jack Kear, Lay Member to Annual Conference
Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader
Rick Kucera
Doug McKinney
Dan O'Neill (Co-Chair)
Kelly Pritts, Recording Secretary
Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Jim Schafer
Tricia Woods, Little Blessings Preschool Director
Ron Wyckoff
(Vacant Position Open)

Members joined by Zoom:

Lacye Cahill
Ron Wyckoff

Members not in Attendance:

David Haukeness
Rick Kucera

Guests in Attendance:

None

Approval of Agenda: The proposed agenda was presented by Dan

- I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- II. Opening Devotion – Julie Kronbach
- III. Review and approval of September 13, 2022, minutes: Julie made a motion to approve the minutes and it was passed.
- IV. Business items:

A. Resolution to open another bank account. That resolution would authorize our Treasurer (Pete Doane) and our Director of Finance and Administration (Sarah Blankman) to open a money market account with our broker (Charles Schwab). The reason for the request is that we have funds now at Schwab in a simple cash account as well as “surplus” funds in our regular FirstBank checking account that are earning very little or no interest, and they believe moving them in to a money market account makes good financial sense. This resolution simply allows us to open a better paying money market account so that our idle money earns a little more interest for us. The amount to transfer is \$188,000 from the Schwab cash account and \$150,000 from the FirstBank checking account. Doug made a motion to approve, Jim seconded it, and the Resolution was passed.

B. Action concerning connectional conversations here at PUMC:

MOTION: Jack made a motion to move that the PUMC Leadership Board to undertake an aggressive listening program to determine how our congregation feels about the various options facing our church and Keith seconded it.

- To guide our discussion regarding the motion, Dan referred to Section 1 of Leadership Board Guiding Principles and our responsibilities as a Board to follow them. Our goal is to establish our vision, values, and mission statements. As of now, there has been no request from anyone that we take action as a church to make a denominational decision.
- If we move to a vote regarding this motion; Dan, Kelly, Jim, and Keith are non-voting members.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE MOTION:

- Julie supports the motion but would like to offer an educational component along with a listening session. There is a need to educate our congregation, but what does that look like?
- Doug suggests that it may be helpful to read the book “Embracing the Wideness” and listen to others. He feels that we should not be forced to take sides as we make decisions. Taking sides only divides us and does not provide unity.
- Keith suggests more questioning and listening opportunities for members.
- Ron would like to know how and when we plan to respond to April’s letter to the Board about the Mountain Sky Conference information published on their website regarding theology.
 - Julie and Laura offered to contact April to thank her for reaching out to the Board and sharing her concerns. They would like to meet with April in person.
- Lacye shared that many members are being vocal about their concerns through social media and people are hurting. If we have a listening session, how do we structure the input session?
- Dan feels that “aggressive listening” can be a one-on-one conversation instead of listening sessions. How do we attempt to listen aggressively? We do not want to lead the conversation; we want to direct the conversation.
- Jack suggests that we send a letter out to the congregation and have Laura speak at this Sunday’s service regarding how the Board values everyone’s input on the church’s vision, values, and mission.
- Kim suggests that we consider the thought of “what (if any) are the changes to our vision so we can get to the root of the concern?”

- Laura mentioned the question “what is the real goal for our session and how do we plan to educate members? Not everyone is educated on what the true issues are, but what is the definition of education? We should try to keep the word “issue” out of our conversations and focus on what the hopes are for the church. Language hurts and can we adopt better language?”
- Laura suggested that as we move forward in our discussions as a Board that we speak for ourselves and not for others. We should focus on our own thoughts, opinions, and conclusions.
- Tricia shared that we should define where we are now, where do we want to go as a church, and what we value as a church community.
- Kim suggested that we define a timeline, process, and goals for the retreat’s strategy session. We need to discuss that the denominational issue (concern) as only one aspect of our vision, values, and mission.
 - Jack, Kim, Susan, Julie, and Jim offered to create the questions and process of communication to the church. It was suggested that we provide the opportunity for anyone to ask questions with any Leadership Board member individually or in a small group setting. We didn’t decide on how or what that would look like.

APPROVAL OF THE MOTION:

- Jim called the question on Jack’s motion. Dan called the motion to a vote, and it was unanimously approved by the voting Board members in attendance, with one abstention.

We did not consider the following “Draft” Resolutions at this meeting.

Draft Resolution #1:

DRAFT 10-4-22

Proposed Leadership Council Resolution

We have been called into worship, fellowship, love of Christ and neighbor as a beacon of hope in our community. As a faith community, Parker United Methodist Church thrives when we come together to share, learn, serve, and grow in Christ. We seek to refine our understanding of our calling thru worship, prayer, and study. We stand in unity with all Christians in sharing the Good News throughout the world. We believe all professing Christians comprise the universal church, the Body of Christ. Guided by The Holy Spirit, we believe there is unleashed power in unifying with rather than splintering from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We resolve to put God first and others second while we continue our individual and collective faith journeys. We resolve to concurrently serve as Christ calls us to serve in our community and around the world.

We resolve to follow Wesley’s Quadrilateral (using Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason) to guide us faithfully to grow and explore our doctrinal understanding, celebrating, and appreciating each individual’s perspectives and gifts as we do so.

We resolve to remain a part of the Mountain Sky Conference to transform the world thru discipleship.

Draft Resolution #2:

DRAFT 10-4-22

Proposed Leadership Council Resolution

The Leadership Board of Parker United Methodist Church believes that there is great strength in a church that supports a wide variety of perspectives, interpretations, and opinions on questions of faith and church doctrine. We acknowledge that diversity here at Parker UMC and urge all who are a part of our faith community to embrace all who enter into our community, to welcome even those whose opinions differ from ours, and to celebrate the growth we all can enjoy as we listen (really listen) to each other and learn from each other. Let us continue to grow together and thrive in ministry together.

Draft Resolution #3 proposed by Jim Schafer:

DRAFT 10-4-22

Proposed Leadership Council Resolution

I move that we explore options to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church of America. This motion will authorize a team comprising three progressive and three traditionalist members to set up meetings with Global Methodist Church and other options as the team wills. Team meetings shall be open to members of the congregation and shall be announced to the congregation at its 9 AM services during the rest of the month of October. The team shall bring its recommendations to a special meeting of the Leadership Board within the next 45 days.

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Future Meeting(s):

Next meeting is our full day retreat – Saturday, Oct. 29 (9-11 am General session)

Outside leader – Rev. Amy Gearhart confirmed

Location - Room 137 - Board (Noon-3 pm)

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm with a closing prayer by Lacye.

Review of Minutes:

The meeting minutes of October 4, 2022 were submitted to Dan and Laura for review on October 4, 2022.

Kelly Pritts, Recording Secretary