



**Leadership Board Minutes for September 5, 2023**  
**Parker United Methodist Church**  
**11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134**

**Leadership Board Members:**

Kim Bimestefer (Co-Chair)	Doug McKinney
Steve Brase	Dan O'Neill (Co-Chair)
Lacye Cahill	Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Susan Gustin	Eric Ross
David Haukeness	Elizabeth Gore Stanley
Jack Kear, Lay Member to Annual Conference	Tricia Woods, Little Blessings Preschool Director
Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader	Ron Wyckoff
Rick Kucera	

**Members joined by Zoom:**

Kim Bimestefer

**Members not in Attendance:**

David Haukeness

**Guests in Attendance:**

- I. Call To Order: Dan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
  - A. Opening devotion: Eric read "Meet Me in the Stairway," a reflection on God being present with all on September 11, 2001
- II. Review and approval of minutes of August 8
  - A. One correction to attendance
- III. Senior Pastor's report
  - A. Membership update
    1. New Members – 9 joined as members, 1 clergy committed to serving here
    2. Only decrease is the passing of Jerry Hines
      - a. Ken Uhernick was a regular attendee rather than a member
    3. Membership Audit update
      - a. Sarah is working to update the database of members with more accurate information
      - b. Next step will be to contact those we have not seen in worship for more than a year
        - 1) The one-year letter
      - c. If we do not hear from people about their desired status in the church
        - 1) We send them a second letter (two-year letter)
        - 2) Their names will be removed from the rolls as of the church conference in 2024
  - B. Worship updates
    1. Year-to-Date through August
      - a. 9 a.m. service = 195 (includes 500 on Easter Sunday)
      - b. 10:30 a.m. service = 58 (includes 350 on Easter Sunday)
      - c. Total in-person = 253 (195 + 58), both services
      - d. Online viewers = 202 (not included above)
    2. Worship series planned through end of the year

- a. Stewardship Sunday will be October 29. This should help with budgeting purposes.
- b. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday; services at 10 a.m., 4, 6, 8 p.m. (10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for kids)
  - 1) Advent moved up to November 26
  - 2) Messiah on Dec. 3
- C. Our application to the Mountain Sky Conference for the **A Table for All** program was successful
  - 1. Laura has not yet received the official packet, so doesn't know details of implementation
    - a. There will be retreats with people from other churches who also received grants
  - 2. Laura would like Pastor Cody to be part of the discussions – ready to think outside of the box. Who else?
    - a. Lacye – what about a youth representative?
    - b. Laura – great idea, though attendance at retreat(s) may be difficult
- D. Golf tournament fundraiser
  - 1. Sign-ups good, both golfers and dinner only
  - 2. Good number of offerings for silent auction
    - a. Items will be on display in Fellowship Hall this Sunday (September 10) – people can start to bid
  - 3. Can use a few more volunteers on the course; also need people to take pictures
- E. Monthly newsletter
  - 1. Laura plans to send out a monthly newsletter to church
    - a. Midweek focused on time-sensitive information
    - b. Monthly newsletter a place to disseminate bigger-issue news (e.g., A Table for All grant)
  - 2. Laura will ask us at the end of each Leadership Board meeting which items we have discussed should be shared with the congregation, and in which format

#### Executive session

#### Out of Executive session

- IV. Old Business items
  - A. Finance report
    - 1. We have received a findings letter from the audit. No significant issues discovered
    - 2. Next meeting of the Finance team Thursday, September 14, 1 p.m.
    - 3. Financial situation not “fab,” but not catastrophic
      - a. Golf tournament proceeds will help – going to the general fund
    - 4. Refinancing the loan
      - a. Doug – status?
      - b. Dan – not yet firmed up 1% cap on interest rate increase, but that is likely
      - c. Kim – can someone do the math to figure out our likely future mortgage payment?
      - d. Dan – will do
    - 5. Stewardship
      - a. Need team to create the messaging of the campaign
        - 1) Several people from last year's campaign no longer here
      - b. Layce – brought up concern that when she got a new credit card number and the automatic payments to the church were no longer going through, she was not notified of that by the church
        - 1) Julie – suggested message in Midweek/Monthly to remind people of this common problem
  - B. Fellowship Hall renovation

1. Laura – the plans have been submitted to the Town of Parker, no idea of the timing of their approval
  2. Once Parker approves, will go out for bids
  3. Leadership Board will have to approve eventual project/cost
  4. Some members have expressed concerns that this project is coming out of the church budget
    - a. Need to make it clear in communications to the church that we received a generous gift of a specific amount of money for a specific purpose
  5. Current planned changes to Fellowship Hall do not preclude future changes
- F. Church directory – access & limitations
1. Plan to grant access to member contact information to all people with profiles in CCB had been published in Midweek
    - a. Doug – any concerns?
    - b. Laura – only one family asked for their information to remain private.
    - c. CCB database includes both official members of the church and attendees
      - i. Have to be authorized for access
    - d. Eric – what happens when someone moves?
    - e. Julie – provided an example of why someone who has moved might still want access
  2. Laura -- there was a little pushback from staff – some concerns about data mining
    - a. If evidence of inappropriate use, people can be barred from accessing
  3. We don't remove someone from membership without a process
- C. New teams needed
1. Communications
    - a. Doug – expressed concern that communication efforts are unfocused. Believes we need a communications team to provide a vision, oversight
      - 1) Laura – Kurt B has expressed willingness to serve
  2. Building & Grounds
    - a. Ron and Doug looking for additional team members
    - b. Feel needs to be divided into team for building, team for grounds
    - c. Planning to recognize people who have been maintaining the grounds this summer
    - d. Sarah doing a good job of keeping on top of contracts – reminding snow removal company that they signed a two-year contract
  3. Stewardship
    - a. Ron – suggests that we need a “full-court press” for stewardship next year – had good experience with purchased 3-year program previously
    - b. Dan – his experience is that these programs are not very fruitful
    - c. Susan – concern about confusing the congregation if there is overlap between a major stewardship campaign and a campaign to build on our property
    - d. Eric – didn't feel there would be enough overlap to cause a problem
    - e. Elizabeth – feels it is important to get out the message that we are financially OK – success begets success
    - f. Eric – be sure to mention the profits from the golf tournament in the October monthly newsletter
  4. Nominations Team
    - a. Dan O'Neill, Rick Kucera, Eric Ross are serving through 2023; any of the three can apply to serve another term
    - b. Julie – can we waive the need to re-apply for current Leadership Board members?
    - c. Laura – no

- d. Steve – would be good to mention in a monthly newsletter the reason we need new Leadership Board members – that this is a totally normal process of replacing part of the team every year
- e. Laura – we don't yet know the date of our charge conference this fall

V. New business

A. Employee retention credit

1. Funding available if business retained employees during COVID
2. We hired a firm to fill out the paperwork
  - a. They get 25% of any proceeds
3. May take 4-5 months to hear anything

B. Membership audit underway

1. Steve – do people use the tear-off part of the bulletin to record their attendance? If not, is there stronger messaging that would encourage people to use that?
2. Doug – always been a gap, whatever the attendance system
3. Laura – we record changes/prayers from the tear-off portion
4. Doug described former system with pads
  - a. Advantage -- got to learn the names of others in your row
5. Rick described a card system at a former church
6. Elizabeth – can we have a system based on a QR code?

C. Police presence

1. Rick inquired as to why we have not seen much police presence at services
2. Laura – Parker police already working a lot of overtime, generally reluctant to accept more
3. Concerns about hiring a private security company
4. Rick – Officer Dan was an asset because he made a point of getting to know people

D. Doug gave an update on the status of adult ed classes for the Fall, particularly Sunday school

1. Also new class for people with kids, two Thursday evenings a month
2. Laura – problems getting childcare (particularly the required adult)

VI. Julie closed us in prayer.

[The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Future Meeting\(s\)](#): The next meeting is Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Jack will provide the devotion

[Review of Minutes](#): The meeting minutes of September 5, 2023 were submitted to Laura and Dan for review on September 7, 2023.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member