



Leadership Board Minutes for November 7, 2023
Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Kim Bimestefer (Co-Chair)
Steve Brase
Lacye Cahill
Susan Gustin
David Haukeness
Jack Kear, Lay Member to Annual Conference
Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader
Rick Kucera

Doug McKinney
Dan O'Neill (Co-Chair)
Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Eric Ross
Elizabeth Gore Stanley
Tricia Woods, Little Blessings Preschool Director
Ron Wyckoff

Members joined by Zoom:

Kim Bimestefer
Lacye Cahill
Elizabeth Gore Stanley

Members not in Attendance:

David Haukeness
Rick Kucera

Guests in Attendance:

Emily Shaffer, Little Blessings Preschool

- I. Call To Order: Dan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Opening devotion: Jack presented a reflection on Matthew 14:28
- II. Review and approval of minutes of September 5
- III. Senior Pastor's report
 - C. Membership update (year to date)
 1. New members – 40 joined as members, 1 clergy committed to serving here
 2. No change from previous month: 18 have withdrawn, 4 transferred out
 3. Total number of members who have died: Jerry Hines, Marilyn Ansted, Jim Spate, Wayne Wagener
 4. Membership Audit update – currently contacting those we have not seen for a while; will work in 2024 to get the database fully updated
 - D. Worship updates
 1. Year-to-date averages through October:
 - a. 9:00 a.m. service = 192
 - b. 10:30 a.m. service = 54
 - c. Total in person = 226 (192 + 54), both services
 - d. Online viewers = 195 (not included above)
 - e. Average concurrent online worshippers = 35
 2. Christmas Eve worship: 10 a.m., 4, 6, 8 p.m.; Advent moved to start November 26; will have Messiah on Dec. 3
 3. One service on Sunday, December 31 = Andrew Reynolds will preach
 - E. Building
 1. Our building is expensive, costs increasing
 - a. Mortgage interest rate going up 2% January 2024
 - b. Property/liability insurance going up by 50%

- 1) Sarah researching options
2. Laura has not heard back from Kathleen Van Voorhis, CEO of the Community Investment Alliance, to pursue options discussed 7-19-23
3. Need a team starting January 2024 to brainstorm problem of the building
 - a. Members to be both on the Board and outside
 - b. Out-of-the-box thinkers
 - c. Kim, Doug would like to help
 - d. Elizabeth has some people in mind
- F. Contact information on congregants now available to those who have CCB accounts
 1. Only two congregants opted out of sharing information
 2. We will be cautious about sharing the information that CCB is available to congregants – lots of scams
- G. The church has been receiving more calls for financial assistance, particularly with rent
 1. Has been a request for Golf Tournament funds to be added to a Pastors' Discretionary Fund to address such requests
 2. Other churches, help agencies, Douglas County reporting increases in aid requests
 - a. Layce – some COVID benefits ending
 3. Partnering with Task Force for Christmas sock/undies drive for kids
- H. Overall are some financial challenges but not because we aren't a vibrant or generous church
 1. Laura feeling hopeful about those who are involved, that our ministries haven't slowed down, and we are sharing God's love in our community and beyond
 2. The staff and A Table for All team will be reading the book *Becoming Church*, by Luke S. Edwards.
 - a. This is a Fresh Expressions book -- Fresh Expressions are experiments or ministries that aren't designed IN the church but BEYOND
 - b. The book will challenge us to listen to our community, love the people in our community, build community, explore discipleship, and imagine what is possible
 - c. This helps us with our vision to be a beacon of hope AND to help people belong, grow, and make a difference
 3. Laura loves how we are living into our Mission & Vision!

IV. Business items

C. Finance team report

1. Erik – about where we expected to be
2. Dan – have created a memo of understanding between the church and Little Blessings to set out some parameters for using the money that was generated by COVID
 - a. Any big issues that are related to this money will come before the Leadership Board for decision
 - b. Kim asked for details, Dan will send a copy to her
3. Dan – mortgage refinance
 - a. Our interest rate will go from 4.7% to 6.7% -- best deal we could arrange with the lenders
 - 1) Adds about \$41,000/year to our mortgage costs
 - b. If we refinance with another lender within 6 years will be some penalty
 - c. No penalty to repay in full or in part
 - d. Julie moved to authorize Dan as chair of the Trustees to sign the mortgage agreement; Steve seconded
 - 1) Jack – are two signatures required? Dan – no
 - 2) Motion passed unanimously

D. Stewardship update

1. To date have received 86 pledges for about \$405,000
 - a. Laura – we mailed about 250 letters

- b. Dan – historically the late-arriving pledges tend to be smaller
 - 2. Historically have received about 150 pledges annually
 - a. Steve – do you think the number was affected by the bad weather on October 29? Laura – we have still been soliciting and accepting pledges, so she doesn't believe the bad weather had much of an effect
 - 3. Kim asked what % of members the 86 represents; Laura – since we're not sure about our actual membership numbers, can't answer that question
 - 4. Dan – very difficult to compare present situation to past five years with all the disruptions of the past five years (COVID, disaffiliation, etc.)
- E. Fellowship Hall renovation
 - 1. The architect submitted plans to Town of Parker
 - 2. Small hiccup means that the plans have not yet been approved so the church can't go out for bids
 - 3. Laura – may have missed the winter window for scheduling indoor work
- F. New teams needed
 - 1. Still looking for people to help with a communication team
 - 2. Doug and Ron are visualizing Building and Grounds team as having two components – Buildings and Grounds
 - a. Doug – hoping to involve Eden Gardeners in Grounds portion
 - b. Laura – this function still feels incomplete, but Sarah has generally been able to find people to help with projects
 - 3. Nominating Team – NEED NOMINATIONS
 - a. 3 board members: have 1 application so far
 - b. Julie – suggested Ruth Wills as lay representative to annual conference

V. New business

Into Executive session

Out of Executive session

- C. Employee Retention Credit from COVID – no response yet
- D. Table for All grant from Conference
 - 1. Team met November 6 for the first time
 - a. Julie – best meeting she's attended in a long time – lots of energy and enthusiasm
 - 2. Reviewed the Retreat #1 information shared in Cody, WY
 - a. Laura attended
 - 3. Team members: Pastor Cody, Phil Evans, Tara Houlden, Julie Kronbach, Barb Miles, Greg Miles, Chris Morin, Pastor Laura
 - 4. Laura to share info on grant with congregation in November newsletter
- E. Fine Arts – Drama request
 - 1. Discussed proposal from Sonjas Parson to present the play *Footloose* at PUMC in July 2024
 - a. Sonja has been involved with former productions at PUMC
 - 2. Laura – proposal was discussed with Fine Arts staff
 - a. Raised some issues but not deal-breakers
 - 3. Dan – will need to clarify financials, particularly the estimated \$3500 to front the production (purchase rights and materials)
 - 4. Layce volunteered to read the script to identify potential areas of concern
 - a. Notes that the play is not the same as the movie
 - 5. Concerns about presenting in the sanctuary

- a. Elizabeth – St Luke’s (Littleton) presents plays in their sanctuary
 - b. Doug – we could find out from St. Luke’s how they market their productions
 - 6. General enthusiasm among Leadership Board as a community outreach
 - a. Proposal was approved by affirmation
 - F. Redemptive Compassion
 - 1. Ron read a letter from Leah Wycoff concerning the Redemptive Compassion class and possible steps the church could take in addressing the homeless problem; attached
 - 2. Would like to see more presentations of this material to the church
 - G. Thanks to those serving Leadership Board for the last time this evening: Dan, Erik, Rick, Jack
- VI. Julie closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Future Meeting(s): The next meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Steve will provide the devotion. We will need to elect new officers at that meeting

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of November 7, 2023 were submitted to Laura and Dan for review on November 17, 2023.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member

Dear Leadership Board,

I wanted to write to the Leadership Board about the Redemptive Compassion Sunday school class that Ron and I have been attending. It really has been an excellent class taught by Doug, Mark and Lisa. I wanted to write to you about this class because it deserves consideration for future workshops and opportunities for our church.

In this day and age of such significant homelessness/non-domiciled people in Parker, Denver metro and our country, I believe it offers a Christian solution to helping an individual up and out of their circumstances rather than just putting a bandaid on the situation. I have often felt despair when faced with a non-domiciled person -- not knowing how to help and this class has given me much to think about in regards to a response. I was surprised at how few participants we have had in this class but I think with more discussion about the class to our church, more people would be interested. I would be glad to give a testimony in front of the church about the class.

Part of the "next steps" our class has identified is to draft guidelines for the church and staff to use when approached for assistance by people in and out of the congregation. Secondly, we want to learn more about what resources are available in the community and how to connect people to these resources. We want to hear from Parker Task Force, Secor, Food Bank of the Rockies - perhaps a Saturday or Sunday workshop open to all would be great to learn about these resources. I believe that most of our congregation wants to help and would love to have more information. The knowledge we gain from hearing from these entities can guide our church in knowing how we can make a difference.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Thanks, Leah

Leah Wyckoff, MS, BSN, RN, NCSN-E