



Leadership Board Minutes for March 5, 2024
Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Kim Bimestefer (Co-Chair)
Ron Wyckoff (Co-Chair)
Steve Brase
Lacye Cahill
Susan Gustin
David Haukeness
Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader
Doug McKinney

Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Li Roberson
Eric Ross
Elizabeth Gore Stanley
Linda Thomas
Tricia Woods, Little Blessings Preschool Director

Members not in Attendance:

David Haukeness

Members joined by Zoom:

Lacye Cahill
Elizabeth Gore Stanley

Visitors

Mark Jackson
Chris Carr, District Supervisor

- I. Call to order: Kim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Opening devotion: Susan shared Luke 1:46-55 (Mary's Magnificat)
- III. Review and approval of minutes of February 6, 2024
 - A. Ron moved to approve, Eric seconded
- IV. Senior Pastor's report
 - A. Membership update thus far
 1. Baptism – 6 this year
 2. New Members – 30 this year
 3. Withdrawals/Transfers – 12
 - a. Dale & Kristi Zimmerman; Kevin, Sherrie & Jack Eimen; Tom & Lorraine Seepers; Susan Langsdorf; Bety Beineke; John, Kathy & Megan Zimbeck
 4. Total number of members who have died – 2 (Jean Kuhns, Judy Bynum)
 5. Membership Audit update – still in process (most withdrawals/transfers above were because of letters we sent out)
 - B. Worship updates year-to-date 2024
 1. 9 a.m. service = 180 (was 173)
 2. 10:30 a.m. service = 60 (was 57)
 3. Total in person = 240 (180+60), both services
 4. Online viewers = 237 (not included above; was 223)
 5. Average concurrent online worshippers = 50
 - C. Property use options
 1. Building Future team needs to meet
 - a. Need to make sure this doesn't go to the back burner

- D. Health & Safety team
 - 1. Currently reviewing draft policy
 - 2. We are gathering a list of medical volunteers who would be available in case of a medical emergency
 - a. Four so far have volunteered
- E. A Table for All team
 - 1. Focus on using parking lot for outreach – Gathering at the Lot
 - a. It may be easier for people to gather in the parking lot than coming into the church
 - 2. Already submitted Year-2 application for \$8,000 to help fund Gathering at the Lot
 - a. E.g., bring in food trucks
 - b. Considering Fourth of July for soft launch of these projects
 - 3. Also may use funds to train people to be connectors
 - 4. Next meeting of team still to come in March, hope to have updates for April newsletter
 - 5. Julie – the team has many good ideas, but we welcome even more from the Leadership Board
 - a. Bike safety course
- F. Laura’s reflections on year thus far
 - 1. Attendance is up a bit
 - 2. More people getting involved
 - 3. Conversation with Officer Dan on Sunday
 - a. Seeing younger people at church
 - b. A good sense of energy
 - 4. We are involved in the community
 - a. Parker Task Force collections
 - 5. Tuesday evening gathering during Lent –Fiction Brewery
 - 6. A Table for All project, Gathering at the Lot

V. Visit of Chris Carr, District Superintendent

- A. Chris -- some history
 - 1. Greatest strength of Methodist church at turn of twentieth century, when less fixed, less institutional
 - 2. Two things changed
 - a. Pastors settled into locations
 - b. Requirement for more higher ed
 - 3. Think of Ephesians 4:11 as model of how the church is built up: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers
 - a. Methodists traditionally good at prophets, pastors and teachers
 - b. Less good at evangelists, apostles, but we have those people in our congregations – entrepreneurs
 - c. Discomfort around word evangelist – Lacye and Eric
 - 4. Alan Hirsch, *Forgotten Ways*
 - a. How we can develop skills we need to grow
 - 5. Chris described church in Colorado Springs that meets in a school
 - a. Small groups/other events meet in people’s homes
 - b. With no building, keeps church as people, not church as a place
 - 6. We need to be more than a stable institution where people meet their friends
 - 7. Image of us as sheep from the front (people following Jesus), shepherd from the back (people providing an example, however imperfect, of how to follow Jesus)
- B. Questions for us: What are our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats?

1. Strengths
 - a. Ron – Fine arts ministry – *Footloose* this summer
 - b. Kim – how we worked together on mission, vision, values
 - c. Doug – the preschool, our location
 - d. Julie – Missional history
 - e. Eric – 113 years
 - 1) Chris – concern about church as movement vs. monument
 - f. Doug – split as a strength, now sees us a less of a monument. Free of griping, negativity
 - g. Lacye – sees older members as a strength
 - h. Laura – Cody adding meal that includes parents and youth once a month to meetings – place to be authentic
 - i. Eric—our role in starting Parker Task Force
2. Threats
 - a. Li – apathy – being like monuments
 - b. Kim – Christianity as a bad word in larger society
 - c. Lacye – scared of politics
 - d. Doug – our debt. How to keep it from becoming our focus
 - e. Steve – lost some big donors
 - f. Eric – people lose sight of big picture, beat up on each other
 - g. Tricia – families come because we’re welcoming, but how to get them involved? They’re overwhelmed, very tender
 - h. Julie – how to assimilate all the new members?
 - i. Mark – challenge of explosive needs in community (unhoused, etc.)

C. Chris responses

1. We have a role to play with regard to politics – refocus on gospel
 - a. Lots of borders in Bible – how did Jesus respond?
 - b. Whole different spectrum with regard to Jesus: Faithful ←-----→ not faithful
2. Trap of trying to attract people to us – instead, how do we go to them?
 - a. Leave behind arrogance that we know more/better
 - b. We need to shut up and listen, since Good is working out there
 - c. What we **can** talk about – where do you find meaning in life?
3. Hears complaints about families doing something else on Sundays
 - a. How does church look to the people on a soccer field on a Sunday?
 - b. Perhaps as people sequestering themselves from life
4. Need to seek joy in the journey, a sense of hope in the darkest places
 - a. Joy as a well we live from. Never leaves us since God never leaves us

VI. Business items

A. Finance team report

1. Linda said that our current financial situation looks good
 - a. January often strong with end-of-year giving
 - b. Have to wait a month or two to see how things level out
2. Eric and Linda are preparing a draft of how to describe our financial status to the congregation
 - a. Laura will review first
 - b. Then Leadership Board reviews

B. Fellowship Hall project

1. Laura – Thanks to Julie for helping resolve the insurance dilemma
2. We needed a revised bid, have received it now
3. Looks as though project can stay within the allocated budget
4. Still need to finalize the contract to be able to move forward

- C. Redemptive Compassion follow-up
 - 1. Doug - Presented the positive letter from Leah Wyckoff concerning the Redemptive Compassion class, and the response from Pastor Laura and the team's efforts thus far
 - a. Doug recommended more of these classes be offered and the Leadership Board should consider attending
 - 2. Ron - Pastor Laura, Doug McKinney, Lisa Jackson, Leah Wyckoff and I attended the Love I.N.C. 2024 Church Partner Lunch
 - a. Love I.N.C. is a "hand up" not a "hand out" organization
 - b. Coordinates support for those in need in the community
 - c. Not currently available in Parker nor Douglas County
 - 3. Ron - the golf tournament is scheduled for September 9, 2024
 - a. Recommends that all proceeds go to the pastors' discretionary fund to support those in need
 - b. Further recommends that once guidelines for Redemptive Compassion are in place, that proceeds go to support Redemptive Compassion initiatives
- D. Grounds team
 - 1. Doug reported that there will be a lunch at church Sunday, March 17 to launch the Grounds Team
 - 2. Steve - mentioned a hole in the concrete on the W side of the church
 - a. Laura - be sure to send a note to Sarah to let her know
- E. Ron reminded everyone that each team should be prepared with an update for the April 2 meeting
- F. Layce update on plans to acknowledge the service of the three charter members of the Leadership Board who just finished their terms (Dan O'Neill, Jack Kear, Rick Kucera)
 - 1. Recommended using local trophy provider to create plaque for each, with letter and possibly a gift certificate for a dinner, to be presented in a service
 - a. Laura would need to suggest the service
 - 2. Kim moved to accept, Li seconded
 - 3. Discussion
 - a. Julie proposed an amendment - what about a plaque for the church walls acknowledging Leadership Board retirees, rather than individual plaques?
 - b. Lacye - will price that and let us know that cost
 - 4. Vote - passed unanimously as amended
- G. Health and Safety Committee update
 - 1. Steve - dinner for committee planned for Monday, March 11 at church
 - 2. Laura - members list for email should be available through CCB

VII. New business

- A. Kim - leveraging Easter to communicate who we are?
 - 1. Laura - Easter often doesn't work well because people are at church with extended family, have plans afterwards
 - a. Easter services: Saturday evening Spark-type service, two identical more traditional services on Easter Sunday
 - 2. Tricia - Easter is one Sunday that Little Blessings families often come
 - 3. Laura - focus is on Palm Sunday for providing range of family-friendly activities
 - a. Single service with cantata at 10
 - b. Journey through Easter activities for kids/families
 - c. Pie bake-off (sweet and savory)
 - 4. Kim - encouraged presenting message of our mission/vision/values at Easter
 - a. Handout in bulletin?
 - b. Video with statements from different generations?
 - c. Julie - mugs with the mission/vision/values curled up inside

5. Laura will take these ideas to staff
 - a. Problem of limited time and limited Jason availability

VIII. What to share with the congregation?

- A. Kim – list of teams/members for monthly newsletter, invitation to join
 1. Ron will write this up

IX. Final comments

- A. Eric – the endowment is in good hands
- B. Ron – Is Laura the only person from our congregation going to the District gathering this Saturday?
 1. Laura – yes as far as she knows, except for her daughter Emma, who will be a youth representative
- C. Lacye – plans are afoot for an intergenerational get-together for men, such as a summer BBQ
- D. Laura – We need a representative to the Annual Conference
 1. Also we can send Lay Equalization members to balance \clergy representation at Conference
 2. Lacye – where will it be?
 3. Laura – June 20-23 in Casper, WY

X. Next meeting

- A. Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Lacye will provide the devotion

XI. Kim closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of March 5, 2024 were submitted to Laura and Ron for review on March 9, 2024.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member