



Leadership Board Minutes for March 4, 2025

Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Li Roberson (Chair)

Dave Ambors

Kim Bimestefer

Kelly Evans (Vice-Chair)

Susan Gustin

Heidi Handel

Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader

John Quest

Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor

Eric Ross

Emily Shaffer, Little Blessings Preschool Director

Elizabeth Gore Stanley

Ron Wyckoff

Members not in Attendance:

Dave Ambors

Elizabeth Gore Stanley

- I. Call to order: Li called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Heidi opened us with a reflection from the book *God Can Handle It*
- III. Review and approval of minutes of January 28, 2025
 - A. Eric moved to approve; Ron seconded
- IV. Senior Pastor's Report
 - A. Returned from traveling related to her father's death
 1. Funeral will be June 21
 - B. Lent 2025
 1. Ash Wednesday = March 5
 - a. Drive-through ashes morning and afternoon
 - b. Service at 7:00 p.m. in sanctuary
 2. Taize services on Wednesdays in Lent
 - a. 30-minutes
 - b. Help people stay grounded in uncertain times
 - c. Fellowship Hall classroom
 3. Sundays in Lent March 9 – April 6
 - a. Sermon series Questions to God
 - b. Adult Sunday school will follow suit
 4. Palm Sunday = April 13
 - a. One service with choir cantata
 - b. All-church event afterwards, probably potluck + Easter activities for families
 5. Maundy Thursday = April 17
 - a. Evening service
 6. Good Friday = April 18
 - a. Evening service
 7. Easter Eve, April 19
 - a. Afternoon service

- b. Laura has not heard from church that was interested in using our property, so doesn't know if they will also want to claim the facility on Easter Eve
 - 8. Easter Sunday, April 20
 - a. Two identical services at 9:00 and 10:30
 - 9. Easter Monday, April 21
 - a. Church office closed
- C. Cody's response to question on "Where are the youth?"
 - 1. Emailed to Board members
 - 2. One of strongest points is that the youth are inviting their friends

V. Business items

- A. Little Blessings – Emily
 - 1. Enrollment, both current and for next year, continues to be strong
 - 2. Financials also more solid
 - a. Emily praised work of Candy Robinson to stay on top of Little Blessings' finances
 - 3. Invited us to the Preschool Prom
 - a. Saturday, April 26, 3-5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
 - b. Intended for entire family, including friends and grandparents
 - 4. John – are you using Fellowship Hall for indoor recess? We need to do some striping of the floor for a few hours
 - a. Emily – we can always move as needed
- B. Finance – Eric
 - 1. Any questions on the January financials?
 - 2. Kim – does the info from Little Blessings need to be updated?
 - a. Eric – yes, there has been a big turnaround
 - b. Eric will meet with Emily and Candy Robinson to get the budget numbers updated
 - 3. Ron – at what point do we re-visit the budget, as we only passed a budget for January – May?
 - a. Eric – will be mid-June before we know the actuals for January – May
 - b. Also the Sustainment Team is working
 - 1) Kim – suggests that the Sustainment Team report to the Leadership Board at some point
 - 2) Laura – Late April or May most realistic soonest time, after Easter
 - 4. Eric – we received a generous bequest after the death of Mike Oldham
 - a. Note from Dan O'Neill summarizing the bequest and the decisions to be made
 - b. Endowment Team would like advice on what to do with the bequest
 - 1) It is currently sitting in an interest-bearing account with Schwab
 - c. No stipulations for use from the donor or family that we are aware of
 - 1) Could go into an endowment, or be applied to current expenses
 - 2) Up to us to decide where the money should go, and if to more than one place, in what proportions
 - 3) No requirement that it end up in an endowed fund
 - i. An endowed fund would limit access to the money
 - ii. Can't spend principal, only earnings
 - d. Julie – suggests that we apply it to the mortgage
 - e. Kim – should we be advertising that we received this gift?
 - f. Julie – have we acknowledged the gift?
 - 1) Laura – standard for office to send a thank-you to the family
 - 2) Heidi – what about a plaque?
 - 3) Laura – has not been standard to make a public announcement of bequests

- 4) Kim – perhaps we need to change that practice to encourage others to think of the church generously
 - i. Also Mike Oldham is a special case, given his longevity and stature in the church
 - 5) Eric – idea of acknowledging Mike also came up in Endowment Team
 - g. After discussion, decided to tell Endowment Team that we want a few more months to decide where the money should eventually go
 - h. Heidi – how does the congregation know about the endowment funds?
 - 1) Eric – there is a 3-year plan in place, starting with the current education campaign and moving towards encouraging giving
- C. Stewardship – Li
 - 1. Letter from Stewardship in the March monthly newsletter, thanking people who pledged and updating congregation on the campaign
 - 2. Laura – one of the things that the larger UMC has been discussing is the need to diversify funding – not just from parishioners
- D. Communications – Li
 - 1. Project to improve signage in the church is underway
 - a. Spearheaded by Doug McKinney
 - b. Temporary signs are up
 - 1) Please comment to Doug with suggestions
 - c. John – noticed ramshackle signs in the Fellowship Hall
 - 1) Probably required signs related to fire, safety
 - 2) Can we improve those signs as well?
 - 2. Safety video
 - a. Elizabeth Gore Stanley wrote a script
 - b. Now need to urge video creators to take the script and run with it
 - c. Not clear who might have the list of potential actors which came out of the *Footloose* production last summer

VI. New business

- A. Li – Doug McKinney proposed creating a “recreation” team
 - 1. Main task would be to serve as the liaison between outside groups using the church facilities and church staff
 - 2. Goal to take those interactions with outside groups off the plates of the staff, particularly Sarah
 - 3. Some of the proposed tasks of the team
 - a. Meet in person with groups using the church for the first time or first few times, making sure they know where everything is, clarifying expectations
 - b. Create lists of expectations/rules for using the church facilities
 - 4. John – the men’s group may want to take this on as their service to the church
 - 5. Emily -- coincidentally, the Little Blessings staff had a conversation about this today at lunch
 - a. Knows of a preschool in Franktown that is making a lot of money renting use of their gym
 - 6. Heidi – need to develop rules
 - 7. Li – need a release form
 - 8. Laura – let’s commission John to follow up on this with the men’s group
- B. Heidi – what about the church hosting a drug take-back event?
 - 1. Eric – we could do this in our parking lot
 - 2. Julie – let’s talk offline
 - 3. Laura – this might tag along with a new social justice group

- a. UMC has adopted new social principles, will be published in June
- C. Li – we need two new people for the Board
 - 1. Linda Thomas resigned
 - 2. Lacye Cahill had to resign due to family issues
 - 3. Laura – we also need representatives to the Annual Conference this summer at St. Andrew
 - 4. Laura – at this point the Board is imbalanced in terms of ratio men/women – would be good to bring on men
- D. Emily – what about the idea of a “secret shopper” to test out the welcome in the church?
 - 1. Have someone currently unrelated to the church come, note how they are greeted, if they could find facilities and information
 - 2. Li asked Emily to write the questions; she will
- E. John – Ron and I will put down striping in the Fellowship Hall for volleyball, to overlay the pickleball striping
 - 1. Ron – the youth were thrilled to have volleyball available
 - 2. John – we could put in a half-sized basketball court but not full-sized
 - 3. Kelly – teams such as Hawks always looking for practice space
 - a. Perhaps could provide access with a lockbox with a key, following an initial orientation for the team/coaches
 - 4. Emily – we would need to provide access to bathrooms, which means access to most of church’s interior space
 - a. Worth pursuing -- lots of money in kids’ sports
- F. Heidi – what about church hosting CPR training?
 - 1. Susan – husband Hal Gustin is a certified CPR trainer

- VII. Next meeting
 - A. Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
 - B. Julie will provide the devotion
 - C. Kelly will serve as secretary in Susan’s absence

- VIII. Susan closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of March 4, 2025 were submitted to Laura and Li for review on March 7, 2025.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member