



Leadership Board Minutes for August 5, 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

Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor

Eric Ross

Emily Shaffer, Little Blessings Preschool Director

Elizabeth Gore Stanley

Ron Wyckoff

Members not in Attendance:

Kim Bimestefer

Emily Shaffer

- I. Call to order: Li called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Review and approval of minutes of June 3, 2025
 - A. Eric moved to approve; Ron seconded
 - B. Approved unanimously
- III. Senior Pastor's Report
 - A. Statistics
 1. Worship through 07/27/25
 - a. 9 a.m. service avg = 200 (6% decrease since end of May)
 - b. 10:30 a.m. service avg = 64 (10% decrease since end of May)
 - c. Total in person = 264
 - d. Online viewers = 183
 - e. Average concurrent online worshippers = 50, approximately 70 total
 - f. Decrease is typical of summer months, we expect numbers to go back up with the start of school
 - g. Grateful for help of online hosts Jane Smith and Jackie Brock
 2. Membership
 - a. 3 baptisms (children)
 - b. 9 joined the church (Gene Olvera and Chris Denny, David Spencer, Ramona Council, Kristen Difani, Jackie Brock, Stephanie Hegde, TJ & Kimberlee Kuhl)
 - c. 3 members passed away (Bill French, Allan Johnson, Ernie Loomis)
 - d. 4 members withdrew membership (Jana Collins; Andrew, Jill & Sarah Reynolds)
 1. Dave – what is our current membership total?
 2. Laura – we're still working on that in Phase 2 of the membership audit
 3. Laura – it's very difficult to make meaningful comparisons about membership numbers past more than a year or two with the huge discontinuities of past few years (COVID, spilt)
 - B. Adult Education

1. Most classes resume in the beginning of September
 2. New Connections catalogue in late August
 3. In September, we will begin a 5-week sermon series through Genesis
 - a. Looking for volunteers to help with “reader’s theater” to present scriptures
 - b. Would be great if can repeat for Spark! service, either because readers are willing to stay on or a second group of readers
 4. Laura will offer Monday-evening class in Fall on Social Principles of United Methodist Church
 5. Dave – will there be a Disciple class starting up?
 6. Laura – the format of Disciple has changed, not sure there is the interest to sustain
- C. Stewardship campaign October 5-26, 2025
1. Laura, Li and Eric participating in Conference-led training Stewardship Camp: From Frantic Fundraising to Sustainable Giving
 - a. August 13, 20, 27, 6-8 p.m. Zoom
 - b. Others encouraged to participate
 2. Li willing to lead campaign, wants more help to implement
- D. Other updates/upcoming work
1. Additional membership audit work with the help of Susan Gustin
 2. Updating Building/Facility Use agreements
 - a. Sarah and Candi Robinson (Little Blessings) to update
 - b. On second draft, almost ready to implement
 3. Laura drafting Volunteer Process/Recruitment Strategy
 - a. Help of ChatGPT
 - b. Importance of having endpoints to tasks – not agreeing to take on a role forever
 - c. Ready by end of August
 4. Will begin work with Health & Safety Team – follow up with safety plan
 - a. Li – we have a video – when/how to use?

IV. Business items

- A. Little Blessings – Emily
1. No report – Emily absent
- B. 3rd annual Golf Tournament Monday, September 8 -- Ron
1. Planning going well
 2. Available slots for golfers (72) about half filled
- C. Drama group for summer 2026 – Elizabeth
1. We weren’t able to mount a production this summer – Sonja Parson unavailable
 2. Hoping to re-start for summer 2026
 3. Kim Moore (previous director) would be willing to mentor people to serve as director
 4. Kelly – knows many college-age kids with theater experience who would be thrilled to direct
 - a. Kelly associated with Audience of One, a Christian organization
 5. Elizabeth will first reach out to people previously involved to see if they wish to continue, then will discuss with Kelly
- D. Communications Team – Li
1. Signs are up
 - a. Feedback welcome
 2. Next step is to get room number signs more visible
 3. Elizabeth – possibility of naming rooms rather than numbering?
 - a. Feeling that that would make locating rooms more confusing
 4. Li – problem of people not knowing where fire alarm pulls are
 5. Eric – need sign to keep people from blocking fire access panel by doughnut tables
- E. LGBTQ+ language for PUMC

1. Laura – revisit the issue raised by Gloria Bokencamp, discussed at last Leadership Board meeting
 - a. Are we an affirming or reconciling church, if so why not state so more clearly?
 - b. Problem that statement “All are Welcome” does not feeling welcoming to people who have not felt part of “all”
 2. Elizabeth – feels important to address Gloria’s specific question about affirming/reconciling
 - a. Laura – in context of recent UMC history, reconciling meant something very specific that no longer seems applicable
 - 1) Less baggage with term affirming
 3. Statements from other churches as suggested starting points
 - a. Statement to appear on website
 - 1) Starting point for many people to come in contact with our church
 - 2) Elizabeth – website an important place to make a statement
 - b. Julie – keep “All are Welcome,” but follow with “This means...”
 - c. Ron – Better to say “**You** are welcome...” rather than “All...”
 - d. Julie – in addition to words, good to have a visual to try to convey our message
 - 1) Li – If Julie will conceptualize/mock something up, Li’s son-in-law and daughter can create an image
 - e. Dave – raised issue of political affiliation
 - 1) Someone had said to him that Republicans would not be welcome at PUMC
 - 2) Discussion of including political affiliation in list of diversity
 - 3) Feeling that mentioning politics at this point in our history too much of a lightning rod
 - f. Heidi – issues of body shape?
 - 1) A struggle for many people, one of many reasons why people might feel that they don’t belong, that they’re not welcome in a community
 - 2) Discussion – what to include/not?
 - g. Proposed statement (emphasis on **you**): **“You are welcome here. We embrace every person. Your race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual/relational orientation, socioeconomic background, age, faith background, body shape, size, and ability are beautiful to us. We want you here.”**
 - h. Li – this is not one-and-done. We can make these changes to the website and then edit as we receive feedback.
 - 1) Can also choose to involve congregation at some point
 - i. Eric – important that we continue to live out this expression in the way we welcome people to our church
- F. Finance and Endowment update – Eric
1. Financial
 - a. Continue to look better than initially anticipated
 - b. Preschool looking solid
 - c. Laura – included a brief mention of finances in August newsletter
 2. Endowment
 - a. Presented info on current state of four endowment funds
 - b. Enhanced by recent generous bequest of Mike Oldham
 - 1) Elizabeth – would be good to use these real-life examples of people’s generosity in discussing endowments with the congregation
 - 2) Julie – given the stature of Mike Oldham within church, would probably be appropriate to mention him by name
 - i. With the permission of his family
 - ii. Laura – Sarah can reach out to them

- c. Planning an informational tri-fold on endowments to appear in bulletin on September 21
 - d. Dan O'Neill to make presentation during service on Nov. 2 – All Saints Day – on legacies
 - 1) Julie – again, a visual would be helpful, not just a table of numbers
 - e. Heidi – it's important to let congregation know where this money has gone
 - 1) Laura – for example, given out xx scholarships in the past xx years
- G. Goals, metrics and measurability of PUMC Vision, Mission and Values – Kelly
- 1. Kelly -- presented questions for a survey to try to measure
 - a. Do people feel connected?
 - b. Is their faith growing?
 - c. Do people feel they make a difference?
 - 2. Probable survey in the bulletin and link in the Midweek
 - 3. Dave – want to make sure questions not just binary – either this or that
 - a. What can we do better?
 - b. Lead to action items
 - 4. Julie – encourage the use of check boxes where possible to make it easy for people to respond
 - 5. Li – want to keep to one page
 - 6. Kelly – want to include youth who are not usually in church
 - 7. Julie – is there a way to use tech to take the survey?
 - a. Eric – e.g., using phone to respond
 - b. Laura – what about putting this in Google forms?
 - 8. Li – hoping to get this out next month
 - a. Elizabeth volunteered to help
- H. CPR classes for fall update – Heidi
- 1. Aiming for September/October timeframe, after people settled back in school
 - 2. Agreed on starting age 13
 - a. Hal Gustin says mixture of ages in a class OK
 - 3. Laura -- There is a blood drive scheduled for October – any concerns about the timing of both?
 - 4. Heidi – once date(s) are chosen she will create the advertising
 - a. Laura – be sure to check dates with Sarah
 - 5. Should we encourage certain populations in the church to participate in the CPR classes, such as the ushers?
- I. New members for the Board
- 1. Looking for two interim members to complete the terms of people who have left (Linda Thomas, term ending 2026; John Quest, term ending 2027)
 - a. Replacements will have to be voted on at Annual Conference
 - 2. Would be good to add at least one man to the Board, and, as always, someone younger
 - 3. Also looking for a new Lay Member to Annual Conference (no term set)
 - 4. Responsibility of all on the Board to talk to potential Board members
 - 5. Laura cautioned us not to promise that someone who expresses an interest will be chosen
 - 6. Ron – would be good to put the recruitment information on a spreadsheet available to all
 - a. Laura – will create Google spreadsheet to track not only who has served on Leadership Board, but who has been approached about serving and their response
 - 7. Li – don't be surprised at nos – this is hard work
 - 8. Ron – for people who have served before, how long do they have to be off the Board before they can serve again?

- a. Thinks is not covered in guidelines
 - b. The current limit is no more than two consecutive terms
- 9. Laura – will send out to us the Board packet and Covenant to have as background info as approach people
 - a. These need to be updated at next church conference

V. New business

- A. Dave – question on two displays that used to be up in the Narthex. Any plans to bring those back?
 - 1. List of active service members associated with the church
 - 2. List of Eagle Scouts from Troop 16 that the church hosts
 - 3. Laura – problem of wall space with display boards
 - a. The place where these boards used to hang is now the history wall – no space
 - b. Would like to get rid of mailboxes – not used, with some glass windows could be valuable display space
 - 4. Service members
 - a. General agreement that we should gather the names of current service members related to the church to display for Veteran’s Day
 - b. Display probably not in format of former display board – more likely on the TV screens
 - 5. Scouts
 - a. Dave will talk with troop about the current status/location of the former display board
 - b. Will also ask Scouts how they feel about resurrecting this board
 - c. Will make further plans once know size/disposition of former board

VI. Closing devotion and prayer

- A. Heidi closed us with a devotion and prayer

VII. Next meeting

- A. Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Eric will provide the devotion

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of August 5, 2025 were submitted to Laura and Li for review on August 12, 2025.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member