



Clemmons UMC Leadership Board Meeting May 1, 2023 @ 7 p.m.

In attendance: Ray Barnes, Amanda Batten, Larry Coble, Betsy Cochrane, Pam Davis, Parks Engstrom, Ed Fisher, Chris Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, Lawrence Fletcher, Kathy Giff, Jan Hodges, Lynn Kennedy, Martha Mayse, Susie Marion, Jeff Meadows, Tom Miller, Joel Morgan, Court Nealeans, Donna Odom, Cristina Batista Paterson, Ken Peacock, Ann Raines, Jennifer Rogers, Sara Smith, Karen Stutzman and Melanie White

1. Welcome/Call to Order - Ken Peacock welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Opening Prayer - John Fitzgerald opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Approval of Minutes - Ken presented the minutes from the March 6, 2023 LB meeting and asked for approval or corrections. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.
4. Board Committee Reports
 - a. Trustee - Jeff Meadows presented an updated list of Trustee projects and their priority. Given the churches current financial status, projects to re-key church doors, fellowship hall upgrades, and steeple cleaning were placed on hold. In addition, further thought will be given to the type of keys used in the future as it relates to updated safety recommendations issued by the conference. Jeff also reported the following:
 - The Hunter House garage has been cleaned out and is ready for Furniture Ministry storage.
 - HVAC – Several units are on their last leg but will not be proactively replaced until needed. One fan serving the kitchen will be replaced.
 - Ministry Center roof leak – still gathering quotes and will be done asap.
 - Outdoor Chapel has been taped off as it has several safety issues which will be addressed.
 - Water usage - for the second billing cycle in a row, the churches water bill has doubled. Trustees have done the following:
 1. Taken water readings 3 times per day.
 2. Shut off water to church and determined that there is no leak under the slab.
 3. Studied data which indicates probable leak in the children's area. Flapper valves/handles have been replaced in children's department toilets. A slow toilet leak has not been ruled out as the Children's Department toilets are quite old.
 4. Trustees will pursue shutting off the water each night until the leak is found.
 - Trustees will meet soon with Susie Marion and Ann Raines regarding the exterior and interior of the Hunter house.

- b. Finance - Ray Barnes presented the March 2023 Treasurer's Report, Treasurer's Report Explanation, and the 1st Quarter 2022/2023 Comparison Report. Ray specifically addressed the Comparison Report and indicated the following:

- CUMC took in 11K less in the first quarter of 2023 than 2022
- CUMC spent 48K more in the first quarter of 2023 than 2022
- Trustees have spent roughly 15K more in the first quarter of 2023 than 2022.

Given current financial constraints, the Finance team will require new processes and procedures for spending. New spending guidelines have been communicated to staff as well as those who purchase on behalf of CUMC. In addition, Court Nealeans will meet with staff on May 9 to clarify these requirements and answer any questions.

Ray reported that the Finance team had studied the various options regarding the impending maturing loan with First Horizon Bank. After discussion, the Finance team made a motion to refinance approximately \$139,700 with a savings secured loan at 5.99% interest for 10 years with First Horizon. The motion was seconded and passed. The loan structure allows extra payments if desired. The interest rate being paid on our money market is currently earning 4.25%.

- c. Stewardship - Lawrence Fletcher reported that the Stewardship Committee will meet in July/August to formulate a strategy for the 2023/2024 campaign. He indicated that he had recently attended a Lincoln County church forum on disaffiliation and that Amy Coles (Bishop Carter's assistant) informed the group that a 30% drop in the conference annual budget was anticipated next year.
- d. Staff-Parish Relations - Lynn Kennedy presented a New social media Policy for LB approval. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the New social media, Policy. The motion was seconded and approved. Jim Phillips (attorney and church member) will be asked to review the policy and make any recommendations. All actions on the part of the LB are subject to revision as the Board sees fit. SPRC is also working on a personnel policy to be presented at the next board meeting.
- e. Nominations - John Fitzgerald indicated that Nominations will meet in July.
- f. MOST - Pam Davis presented MOST Minutes and Email Vote, and a Q&A Information Session handout. Pam reported that MOST recently approved a \$2K grant request and a children's department fund raiser by email vote. Pam indicated that the MOST team is working to educate the congregation regarding MOST purposes and projects through quarterly Sunday Informational Sessions, Mission Moments, newsletter articles and Mission Fairs. In addition, MOST has created a Q&A document that addresses questions received over a period of years. Pam indicated that the next MOST deadline for requests is May 8.
- g. Worship - Martha Mayse offered praise for the Connect Service and all the hard work that went into last week's service. There were 179 in attendance and the heartwarming participation of children and youth in the service was wonderful. Martha indicated that the presentation regarding upgrades for the Ministry Center was excellent and while everyone understands the financial situation the church is currently in, she and others hope that plans will be able to move forward soon. Martha thanked everyone for a joyous Lent and Easter and indicated the following dates/plans:

- May 7 – Communion
- May 28 – Combined Worship at 9:45 in the Ministry Center

Parks Engstrom expressed understanding for the current funding pause while also challenging the LB to view potential upgrades to the Ministry Center as an investment, not only for the Connect Service but for the long-term flourishing of the congregation. In addition, she recognized Karen and Amanda for all their hard work.

- h. Communications and Technology – Ken Peacock for Linda Shawcross reported that they have been very successful in getting photographs for the church directory and plans include a late summer release of the publication.
- i. Children’s Ministry - Cristina Batista Paterson commended the children and youth teams for their great job in the Connect Service. “Stuff the Special Fund” fundraiser will be held May 7 and volunteers are needed for VBS.
- j. Youth Ministry - Amanda Batten for Abby Smith reported that the youth have the following activities planned for the coming months:
 - Beach Trip
 - Graduation Baskets – please consider adopting a senior
 - May 13 – Car Wash Fund Raiser
 - June 4 - Graduation Sunday at 11am
 - June 12-14 Middle School Mission Camp
 - July 9 – 15 Carolina Cross Connection Urban
 - July 16 – 22 Carolina Cross Connection Home Repair
 - July 24 – 31 Honduras

Amanda thanked everyone for help with *Fork and Table* which has proven to be a great opportunity for youth to learn to cook while studying the Bible and enjoying fellowship. She also thanked Cristina for her help.

- k. Senior Adult Ministry – Ken Peacock for Janie Hackney reported that the Weiner Roast has been rescheduled to June 3 due to weather.
- l. GAP Discipleship Committee - Jennifer Rogers reported that their Tuesday evening women’s Bible study had been quite successful and will pick up in the fall with *Bad Girls of the Bible*. She also indicated the following opportunities for fellowship:
 - May 23 – Meal Meet Up at Ketchie Creek
 - June 27 – Tanglewood Pizza Kitchen
 - Friday Fill Ups at Bee Kind Coffee at 9am – devotion and coffee
 - Sundays – 11am Small Group Sunday School class in the Youth Room

Jennifer also indicated that Discipleship/GAP Team recently created the following Mission Statement: *Foster Christian connection and nurture the spiritual gifts of the adults within our congregation in order to positively impact our church family and the broader community through Christ’s love and service.*

5. Other - Sara Smith reported that she attended a Safe Church Webinar recently and provided her notes (Att. 9) from the information shared. Everyone agreed that we all need to look at ways to make our church safer. Sara will also share this information with the

Children's Committee and the Weekday Board. Everyone agreed that safety should be a priority.

Adjourn – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 9pm. Happy Birthday Kathy Giff!

Remaining 2023 Leadership Board meetings: August 7, Oct. 2, and Nov 6.