



Clemmons UMC Leadership Board Meeting

October 2, 2023 @ 7 p.m.

Chapel

In attendance: Ray Barnes, Amanda Batten, Betsy Cochrane, Larry Coble, Pam Davis, Parks Engstrom, Ed Fisher, Chris Fitzgerald, John Fitzgerald, Lawrence Fletcher, Janie Hackney, Jan Hodges, Lynn Kennedy, Holly Lee, Caroline Lowe, Terri Lowe, Heather Magaha, Susie Marion, Martha Mayse, Jeff Meadows, Joel Morgan, Court Nealeans, Donna Odom, Ken Peacock, Ann Raines, Linda Shawcross, Karen Stutzman, William Tuttle, Melanie White

1. Welcome/Call to Order - Ken Peacock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming to the first "in person" meeting since 2020.
2. Opening Prayer - John Fitzgerald opened the meeting with prayer.
3. Approval of August 7, 2023 Leadership Board Meeting Minutes - Ken asked for approval of the minutes. Linda Shawcross requested to amend the Communications and Technology Report from August to reflect that the directory will be ready for edits in September and the directory itself will be ready in the New Year. A motion was made to accept the minutes as edited. The motion was seconded and passed.
4. Board Committee Reports
 - a. Trustee - Jeff Meadows shared the following:
 - New toilets and sink fixtures were installed in Preschool on 9-1-23; expect a 10 to 15% reduction on the next water bill.
 - New roofing completed on Preschool, Church Office, Garage, and Scout Building. Sanctuary and Picnic shelter roofing should be replaced in the next six weeks. Jeff will coordinate with pumpkin patch which will be open through October 31st.
 - Working with John Wells, Nathan Broyles, and the *Infinity Insurance Group* to replace all *Church Mutual* Policies by 11-10-23. We should expect a 10 to 15% increase in costs. Jeff will circulate the new costs of insurance prior to the Nov 10th deadline for LB approval.
 - Trustees are proposing to replace two wooden doors with windows at the Preschool lower entry near the Sanctuary with steel doors and code-compliant hardware for security purposes. Existing doors can be easily breached for unauthorized access to the Preschool and Sunday school building. Cost would be roughly \$3150. Funds will come from the Trustee budget. They will also work with a new security team that is being formed. A motion was made to replace the doors which was seconded and passed.
 - A Deputy Sheriff will assist Trustees with a Security Assessment in the next several weeks. Trustees requested that a member of the Worship Committee assist in the walkthrough. Martha Mayse will participate on behalf of the Worship Committee.
 - We renewed the contract with our Cleaning Service. They requested a 10% increase, which we approved, but the price is locked in for 2024 and 2025.
 - We still till have two HVAC units down. Jeff will be following up with the company.

- b. Finance - Ray Barnes read the minutes of the most recent Finance Team meeting which is included below as (Addendum A).

In addition the Finance Committee minutes, the following information was provided:

- Court Nealeans indicated that he had recently changed the reporting format of church finances in the newsletter. The new format gives a clearer picture of our financial situation.
 - Pam Davis and Ray will look into the report given about the approximately \$16K in MOST from MGGS. They will report back at the November meeting.
- c. Stewardship - Lawrence Fletcher indicated that the Stewardship Team felt that the Breakfast/Ministry Fair and the Unity Service went well. They are optimistic about a good pledge drive. They will provide weekly updates regarding pledges. Heather inquired about the number of pledges received in the past as it relates to the number of active families. Lawrence indicated that he would work on gathering that information.
- d. Staff-Parish Relations – Lynn Kennedy indicated that they were not having much luck finding a new Children’s Ministry Director. Parks Engstrom asked if the salary is too low to attract a suitable candidate. Lynn advised that when Sara Smith left the churches employ she took 5K in salary with her to work as the preschool chaplain. SPRC is, however, exploring a higher salary for the CMD position.
- e. Nominations - John indicated that the Nominations Team is excited to report that they have received a lot of “yes” answers to Nominations and they have been able to add committee members from the Connect Service.
- f. MOST - Pam Davis had no report as the MOST Committee would be meeting soon.
- g. Worship - Martha Mayse thought the Unity Service was wonderful and especially enjoyed hearing the Connect Service music. She thanked the Stewardship Team for serving Communion. They are beginning to make plans for Christmas with decorations going up the week of Nov. 26th.
- h. Communications and Technology - Linda Shawcross indicated that they are working hard on the directory and that there are still a lot of young families that have not provided a photo. They will continue to try to get photos from those attending the Connect Service. They hope to tie the release of the directory with the 150th celebration.
- i. Children’s Ministry – Chris Fitzgerald for Cristina Batista Paterson reported that things were going well in Children’s Ministry. Volunteers are still slim on Sunday mornings but she is slowly working on creating a stronger volunteer base. Safe Sanctuaries require the “two adult rule” in all classes. With SPRC help, the CM department has been able to hire Shuler Stemper to work in the baby nursery. She replaces Kellie Convery who retired this summer. Shuler will begin working every Sunday beginning Oct. 15th. Chris shared the list of Children’s Ministry Events that are planned for fall of 2023.
- j. Youth Ministry - Caroline Lowe reported that the *Youth Kick Off* on August 27th saw the return of a great youth group. Attendance is 65 on average with 85 engaged. *Fork and Table* is up and running. Middle school bible study will start soon, along with CODA, and youth praise team practice. The Pumpkin Patch is a huge hit this year and the youth don’t have to pay for unsold pumpkins. The Youth are going backpacking in

Virginia during the coming weekend. Middle and Senior High youth SS will soon be separating and move to an open forum format.

- k. Senior Adult Ministry - Janie Hackney was happy to report that their numbers have increased to as many as 75. Their next event is a chicken stew to commemorate Veteran's Day.
- l. GAP Discipleship Committee – Holly Lee reporting for Jennifer Rogers indicated the following:
 - Connection
 - Monthly dinner meet ups continue; now 3rd Tuesday. Past 2 meet ups have been larger, approximately 18 at each. Next meeting is Tues 10/17 6pm at IHOP.
 - Weekly Friday Fill Up, Fridays 9am at Be Kind Coffee. 3-6 attend on average.
 - Women's Rest Retreat was 9/14-9/17 at Ocean Isle Beach. 7 women participated.
 - Still working to get some opportunities for men off the ground.
 - Service
 - Sat August 19, 11 participants baked about 400 muffins for HOPE of WS. This was a big hit and several asked to do it quarterly.
 - Upcoming - Sun 10/29 worshipping and serving lunch at The Dwelling.
 - Discipleship/Spiritual gifts
 - Women's book study resumed 9/12. Tuesdays 7-8:30 - Bad Girls of the Bible. 10 participants. (1 out of state participating via Zoom)
 - 11 o'clock Sunday school started in April, meeting weekly in the High School youth room. Doing the Wired Word led by rotating facilitators. Looking at upcoming opportunities with spiritual gifts assessment and possibly Knocking on Heaven's Door.
- m. Other
 - Terri Lowe who serves on the weekday ministries committee (preschool) indicated that the preschool was off to a great start. They still have a waiting list; have new playground mulch and a new detailed lockdown procedure. They will also conduct quarterly drills.
 - Amanda Batton solicited the LB for volunteers in the youth department. Please contact Tom Miller if you want to partner with youth.

Adjournment – Ken called the regular meeting of the Leadership Board to a close at 7:59 pm and began the closed session portion of the LB meeting.

The last Leadership Board Meeting in 2023 will be held on Nov. 6th and will include Charge Conference.

(Addendum A)

Finance Minutes of 9/28/23

The Finance Team met on Thursday, September 28, 2023. Members attending: Ray Barnes, Scott Seagle, Julie Smith, Libby Bovender, Lawrence Fletcher, Art Duncan, David Davis, Waynette Adamczak. Courtney Nealeans and Aaron Rodgers were unable to attend. Ray opened the meeting with a brief reading from the Upper Room about manna.

The discussion began with a quick synopsis by Scott of where we are budget wise for the end of September. September was not a strong month for donations relative to prior months in the summer, although June – August were slightly better than prior year.

The 2024 budget was then distributed that Waynette put together. We discussed several line items in greater detail, including the children's ministry, CUMC staff payroll in aggregate, apportionment, music, missions, trustees, stewardship, and youth. A footnote from Waynette to add to the budget for CUMC staff: the staff payroll expenses include the director and accountant/bookkeeper of the pre-school which are 'pass-through' expenses because they are staffs who is paid by the pre-school.

Significant increases to the 2024 budget that Ray called out and warranted some discussion were as follows:

- a \$12K increase in planned expenses for staff salaries;
- A \$12K increase in budgeted expenses for the trustees – namely for insurance, lawn care/maintenance, and cleaning services, as well as some maintenance/utility increases.
- Waynette noted a \$14K increase in mission funding from \$26K to \$40K. This is a general fund encompassing all ministries the church may choose to fund, and MOST committee will distribute these funds per their process. A note that MOST also has approximately \$16K remaining from the MGGs campaign in 2018 that was allocated to MOST but not yet spent. Also of note, several budgets are flat from 2023 – 2024 including children's and youth ministries, staff education & travel budgets, music, connect service, office supplies, and stewardship. Overall, the committee feels good about the proposed budget of 1.2m.

Ray noted that he will mention the budget as complete at the next board meeting, pending any additional leadership board discussions. David discussed that the overall feeling of the ad-hoc team proposing the renovations to the ministry center is one of optimism and that they feel they can go to the membership of the church (charge conference) with a decent set of numbers. However, there will be some significant costs associated with that:

- Paying an architect to draw up detailed plans that will allow contractors/subcontractors to price and give detailed estimates. This will allow the team to feel confident in actual cost.
- The church retaining a campaign consultant (indeterminate cost/scope) to advise on feasibility and process, and then actually getting started with a campaign.
- Church will likely need to form a campaign committee as this is outside of stewardship committee's scope. The finance committee noted that the overarching consideration in stewardship season would need to be the general church budget – there is not much to be carved out given the steep increase in many costs this year.

Ray closed with the reading from the Upper Room. Sometimes we may pray for weeks or years, seemingly without answer. Often the answer is not what we think it should be. How often do we miss the answers to our prayers because we are looking for what we think the answer should be? Let us pray for discernment and wisdom.

Respectfully submitted, David Davis