

## **Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**

*Experience – Embrace – Engage*

### **Leadership Board Meeting**

**July 20, 2020 – 7:00pm**

#### **Attendees:**

Chuck Russell (Board Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Doreen Alvarez (via Zoom), Alfred Current, Dave Devilbiss, John Furtado, Don Grein, Carol McGuire, John McGuire, Joan Priest, Jeanne Shroul (via Zoom), Sarah Taylor, Dana Hanson

In January and February this year, the COVID-19 virus started transmitting globally, including within the United States. It was quickly determined that the virus was transmitted very easily. By mid-March, it had infected enough individuals that Florida “closed” several activities (such as bars and gyms), and the Florida UM Conference asked churches to suspend in-person services. As a result, GCUMC ceased all worship services, ministries, and meetings starting March 16, and the Leadership Board meeting scheduled for that evening was cancelled. We changed to a single, live-streaming, online worship service thru Facebook at 10am on Sundays, which included both traditional and contemporary aspects.

By early June, the spread of COVID-19 seemed to be waning, and, although ministries and meetings remained closed, we resumed in-person worship on June 21 and 28 and July 5. However, during those same three weeks, cases in Florida, including our area, began to climb, and in-person worship services were once again suspended. We returned to a single online worship service at 10am on Sunday, July 12, and the church was closed as before.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, everyone had their temperature taken and all hands were sanitized when they entered the church this evening for this meeting. We met in the sanctuary, with chairs spaced 6-feet apart. All wore masks. Two individuals attended via Zoom.

It is noted that from June 1 through July 31, the Boys & Girls Club are holding their summer camp. Numerous CDC and DCF guidelines, protocols, and restrictions are being followed. There is a maximum of 45 children, and there are no field trips. Hand washing/sanitizing, and area cleaning are done periodically throughout the day and at the end of the day.

This Leadership Board meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Pastor Mike.

### **LEADERSHIP BOARD OPENING**

***In General:*** Chuck advised that because we have not had a Leadership Board meeting since February, we were having one this evening to bring everyone up to date on behind-the-scenes happenings.

***Myakka Dinner Church:*** Pastor Mike reported that shortly before we closed in March, it had been decided that our new Dinner Church ministry would meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at Myakka River Elementary School. That program will remain suspended until probably the second semester of the next school year (i.e., until January 2021).

***Salvation Army Bell Ringers:*** ***Thanks to the leadership of Sandy Doty,*** Gulf Cove UMC received a first-place award for the highest amount of donations received in our area.

***Baby Grand Piano:*** This is a new agenda item which was brought to our attention this afternoon by Doreen after a conversation with Angela Navarro. First, Chuck pointed out that the

current piano on the chancel is in dire need of tuning and could easily warrant being replaced. The Baby Grand Piano available to us is described by Doreen in an email as follows:

Angela texted me that we have an opportunity to get a FREE baby grand piano for the sanctuary. It's in pristine condition. Here is what she sent:

Baby grand piano in air conditioned space. Kawai purchase date 2000-01 sitting in an apartment in South Port Square. Hasn't been played since 2013. Needs a tuning. In pristine condition. Originally offered to schools. Rejected today because of covid. Color glossy black. If the church is interested, please let me know asap. Piano must be moved out of apartment by July 30 and the owner needs to know as well. ... She has a quote for \$400 to move it. Our current piano needs tuning anyway. Roy is interested in us acquiring it.

The question I raised that she cannot answer is, can the "stage" handle the weight? It was built by [our church] members almost 25 years ago. I know with Roy, Derek, & Joe's help, we could reconfigure the stage so that everything is functional. This needs a quick decision. The owner is coming down from NY to clear out her father's apartment, including the piano. It has to be gone by July 30th, so time is of the essence. These pianos are going for \$6,000 online. Again, it's free. If Covid is a concern, it can be sanitized. (It's probably already sanitized by being untouched for so long.) ...

Chuck said he believed that it would fit on the chancel with a little rearranging, and that, if needed, it could be supported further with something like bricks or cinder blocks.

Joan told us about an occasion six or more months ago when our church had an opportunity to obtain a Baby Grand Piano from Joan's neighbor. It ultimately fell through, but at the time, discussions were held with Angela, Roy Engler, and Joe Pariseau. They determined that the Baby Grand would fit on the chancel. In addition, although that piano weighed about 150 pounds more than what is currently being used, that 150 pounds is distributed over a much larger surface area and should not cause a problem. Joan also mentioned that a little research reflects that a 20-year old Kawai Baby Grand Piano currently sells for around \$6,000.

If we agree to take it, we could pay moving costs out of the music account. After discussion, all agreed that we should take it. Doreen texted that she would notify Angela.

### **FINANCE**

Chuck initially said he thought our donations were starting to slow down. Alfred advised that in March several individuals were concerned and got together to try to figure out what we would do when giving plummeted as a result of the COVID lockdowns. Their concerns, however, did not materialize. Alfred reported that as of today, we are running 10% ahead of this same time last year. This number includes amounts from a few individuals who pre-paid their donations for the rest of the year, along with small increases from some other individuals.

In addition, the church applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program loan. The SBA website advises that a PPP loan is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The SBA will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met, and the funds are used for eligible expenses.

Alfred informed us that the church receiving the PPP Loan was a direct result of our relationship with the Boys & Girls Club. Our usual bank was unable to obtain the loan, so Pastor Mike and Alfred approached Nicolas Warden, who not only works at Centennial Bank, but also sits on the B&GC Board of Directors. He was able to make it happen.

Through Centennial Bank we received a loan of about \$55,000. This amount equates to two months of payroll expenses. When the payroll is paid, that same amount is transferred from Centennial Bank to our current bank, but segregated on our books and not used (for now) just in case the government changes its mind and wants the loan repaid.

Chuck recommends that all future budgets should include a projected income column for goal setting and comparison.

John McGuire questioned the one report that indicates we are spending about 87% of our budget. Dawn had previously explained to Alfred that, due to the lockdown, we do not have all the expenses that we usually have. Payroll, however, has to be maintained to meet the requirements of the PPP loan.

### TRUSTEES

Dave and Don reported as follows:

- Sanctuary chairs have been delivered and are in the building.
- A small plumbing problem in the men's room was fixed by Dave.
- The large air conditioning unit in the Youth Room, Building D, died. Since parts are expensive, it was more economical to simply purchase and install a window unit for that building.
- A dumpster was procured for free to clear out Oaks Cove, and the abandoned truck was removed. Oaks Cove is now empty, but the upstairs needs a lot of work before it can be used.
- The Education Wing hall was painted by Linda Starck. It is fresh, colorful, calming, and beautifully done! *Thank you, Linda!*
- The sanctuary carpet and Education Wing carpets have been cleaned.
- Security during services is suspended for now.
- The cost of lightning rods was around \$13,000 plus another \$5,200 for installation. The trustees have decided not to go that route at this time. FPL has indicated they could install whole-building surge protection for \$30 a month. It does not include any monetary reimbursement should a lightning strike hit us. [After the meeting, Dana discovered that Doreen had texted a concern with surge protectors from FPL. Her concern was conveyed to the trustees.]
- The termite inspection of Buildings A, B, C, and D was completed. No termite problems were discovered at all. Since termite destruction is not a concern, the trustees feel the buildings should be repaired until our future campus expansion plans materialize.

Dave reported that there is little money available to the trustees to do any repair work. As of June 30, the financial reports indicate as follows:

320.028	Facility Upkeep	\$4,667
320.039	Trustee Fund	\$3,040

Dave informed us that the freezer located in the storage closet died two days ago. The repairman who came out today said it is not worth fixing. Fortunately, that freezer is not being used for anything, so it was not repaired at this time.

The air conditioning unit in the parsonage is not cooling properly, but the problem relates to airflow and not the A/C unit itself. While the Weavers were on vacation, the ductwork was replaced with larger ductwork which allows for more airflow. Also, a few years ago when the roof was redone, the ridge vents were covered, and they now do not allow for the proper flow of air thru the attic. In addition, there is minimal insulation in the attack. These two conditions also affect the air conditioning system. Galloway Roofing will be at the parsonage on Thursday to inspect and discuss the roof.

Several iguanas have been found in the building. Dave set a trap two weeks ago, but has not caught any yet. We know there are several living on the grounds. Iguana repellent is available which needs to be sprinkled or sprayed around every doorway. We should consider using it.

Chuck said there is a hose which runs to an outside sink for the B&GC. Both the hot and cold water were on. He is concerned that if the hose breaks, it could turn out to be expensive. Dave also mentioned that he was able to unplug one toilet in the men's room, but a plumber had to be called to clear out a second toilet. In addition, the A/C in the Education Wing rooms are set low and do not appear to be reverting to an "economy" temperature overnight. Chuck said our concerns should be addressed in writing to the B&GC.

### **EXPERIENCE. EMBRACE. ENGAGE.**

Jo Ann Hopkins submitted a written report on EEE Embrace:

- Since the virus scare, it has been difficult keeping groups together.
- Emmaus is at a dead stop.
- Friend to Friend is currently meeting at Jo Ann's home. Pastor Mike noted that the church is not liable should anything happen off-campus since the campus technically is closed.
- Crafty Ladies has not determined when they will start meeting again.

John Furtado had no report to submit for EEE Experience.

Pastor Mike reported on EEE Engage. He gave ***kudos to Holly Tozer and Sarah Taylor*** for still enabling the children and youth to get together on Zoom, Facebook Chat, and on occasion, in person. He said the kids do seem to understand what is going on. He also sends a special ***Thank You to the Crafty Ladies*** for their donation which enabled us to purchase a new camera for online use; it has made a huge difference. He also mentioned that the Closet of Hope has been closed since mid-March and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

### **EXPANSION TEAM STATUS REPORT**

Joan advised that the boundary survey of our campus has been completed by Geosurv, with the understanding that they will continue to pursue and complete the property boundary survey and the boundary ownership with documentation and recording in Charlotte County. There is an issue with our southern boundary which actually extends into Conway Road. They are looking

into the discrepancy with the county. If it cannot be readily rectified, they know the process that needs to be done to delineate where the boundary actually is.

Joan told us about the team holding a very productive meeting with the B&GC Board of Directors. Both parties are happy with our partnership and wish to continue it for a long time. Support has been shown from both parties, and as we are able to meet and restart programs, we hope to see even more interaction.

During that meeting, both our team and the B&GC directors shared their visions for desired space and needs regarding the expansion of the campus facilities. We are all excited and pleased to be pursuing this now. The B&GC have contacts who can assist financially, with both construction and other areas that need to be considered as each step is broached. GCUMC will also have a capital fundraising campaign. However, many other steps must be accomplished before reaching this point.

Our most immediate concern is gathering information from the Florida Conference regarding options for beneficial campus sharing between our two organizations. Pastor Mike said he has also been in touch with Mickey Wilson of the Florida Conference. Mickey will be providing numerous recommendations as to what we can do about sharing the campus.

Once the campus-sharing is established, then a working master plan will be created which the civil engineer and landscape architect can discuss with Charlotte County, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Department of Transportation, etc., for knowledge of any restrictions, regulations, and approval. We are still very much in the beginning stages of this venture.

Since it will be probably three to five years before we even break ground, we really need the portables to remain in usable condition.

### **ADJOURNING**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm with a prayer by Pastor Mike. The next Leadership Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson  
Recording Secretary