

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

September 21, 2020 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Pastor Mike Weaver, Alfred Current, Dave Devilbiss, John Furtado, Carol McGuire, Ken Priest, Joan Priest, Jeanne Shrout, Linda Starck, Rick Starck, Dawn Tesauro, Dana Hanson

This Zoom meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Alfred, who was leading the meeting this evening.

Prayers were lifted for Doreen Alvarez who was unexpectedly hospitalized today.

Charge Conference: Pastor Mike started the meeting by advising that this year's Charge Conference will be held via Zoom on Sunday, October 25, at 2pm. There will be several other churches online at the meeting. At our next Leadership Board meeting, we will review the proposed leadership for 2021 and other items that will be addressed at the Charge Conference.

Finances: Alfred informed us that spendable giving so far this year as compared to last year has increased by 4%. In addition, we still have our PPP loan money in a separate account in the amount of over \$55,000. Steps are being reviewed so we can apply to have that loan forgiven, thus freeing up the funds to be used by the church. The trustees need money for repairs and upkeep. Dawn advised that she is not aware of any real problems coming up, but several renewals (such as Church Windows, air conditioning, and refrigeration) come due in October.

Staff Parish Relations: Linda advised that SPR recommends that there be a 3% cost-of-living increase across the board. There will be no merit raises at this time, but it may be reviewed next year. SPR's only concern was whether the 3% can be met financially.

In light of Alfred's financial report, Joan said she agrees with the 3% COL increase. Despite the current volatility the country's economy, nothing keeps any expenses stagnant. Joan questioned whether the pastor's salary was determined. Pastor Mike said it would be addressed at next month's Leadership Board meeting, which will be before the Charge Conference.

Rick and John also voiced their agreement with the 3% COL increase. All others present nodded their agreement with it, so a consensus was reached.

Facility Expansion Team: Joan reported on the Team's meeting which was held on September 14. Geosurv, the survey company, is determining and finalizing our boundary on Conway Road. They are obtaining Charlotte County's advice as to what is needed. This is still in progress and already covered as part of their fee.

The Florida Methodist Conference suggests the best way for the Boys & Girls Club and GCUMC to share our campus is through a long-term, low-cost lease. The B&GC have donors who will build the facility they want, and we can lease the land to them. It will serve to improve even further our relationship with the B&GC and our community. In addition, Conference has no

objection to the B&GC donors' desires to have their name on a part of their facility. GCUMC is agreeable to this.

An inspection of the portables yielded a termite-free review. The trustees will decide if regular pesticide prevention treatment is needed. Portable maintenance or repair which is needed includes drywall for the Youth Room. The trustees' goal is to maintain \$10,000 in an account for emergencies. They presently have only \$7,000. With regard to the portables, Dave added that since they will be needed for several more years, the roofs, windows, and doors should be inspected and repaired or replaced. Dave also mentioned that some of the concrete near the main building is leaning towards the building, causing the steel structure beams to start rusting, which is causing the kitchen walls to start falling out.

Joan said the Team also discussed just what Dave was talking about – going thru the property and the campus as a whole to determine everything that needs maintenance or replacement. At that point, cost can be addressed, and items prioritized.

Joan said that during the Team meeting, Becky Stephenson spoke to the need that building maintenance should be a part of stewardship, so that funds can be donated directly to the Trustees' account. Part of stewardship is financing a contingency fund specifically for maintenance and upkeep of facilities.

When questioned, Dawn advised that, although after our mortgage was paid off we had *hoped* to put \$1,500 a month into an account, it seldom occurs because the funds are needed for other bills. Joan said perhaps a resolution of the PPP loan might enable us to make that monthly allotment.

Joan said there are sufficient funds in the Expansion account to engage Jeff (the Civil Engineer) and Greg (Landscape Architect) for the purpose of creating a master plan to present to us and Charlotte County. Joan will be contacting them soon to get this started. The team's current ideas of square footage, renovation, and adding-on were sufficient such that they can be properly discussed and considered. The B&GC needs are also part of the presentation. GCUMC needs were based on church survey responses and how facilities are used presently by the church and by community groups.

Alfred said he spoke recently with Lynn Dorler from B&GC. They have access to some of this year's overall B&GC funds and will be providing another commercial-grade refrigerator and freezer.

Trustees: Alfred pointed out that a huge **THANK YOU** is due to Rick Starck and Dave Devilbiss for all the volunteer work they have done around the church!!!

Thanksgiving Dinner: Alfred and Pastor Mike spoke with Don Teague about this community event. Don has agreed once again to be this year's coordinator. They felt that due to COVID-19, only drive-thru and delivery dinners should be offered, with NO in-sanctuary dining. [Pastor Mike did his best to remove sweet potatoes from the menu because of the long two days needed to prepare them, but was reminded by Alfred that if they are taken out of a #10

can, that time is cut drastically....] Although nothing was firmly decided (we are leaving that for the event team), a few thoughts mentioned included the following:

- Everybody should call ahead. Delivery calls would be mandatory as in past years, but drive-thru calls would give us a general idea of quantity needed.
- The time should be reduced to two hours instead of three.
- Drive-thru traffic should enter by the pond and exit via Conway so they can turn in either direction.
- Several serving lines should be established in both the serving room and sanctuary.
- With all the drive-thru traffic we will experience, we might consider asking the Sheriff's Department to direct traffic.

Dana said that whatever the details are can be incorporated into publicity articles. Alfred pointed out that next year's Pig Pickin' can benefit from whatever we learn from this year's Thanksgiving Dinner.

Trunk or Treat: It has not been firmly decided whether it will be held next month, or if an alternative event might be held in its place. Pastor Mike, Holly Tozer, and Sarah Taylor will be meeting to discuss it. [Although no 2020 events appear yet on the Facebook page, if we do decide to have an event, it can be added to <https://www.facebook.com/HALLOWEENEVENTS/>.]

Annual Conference 2020: Pastor Mike reported that this was a long annual conference since it started in June with various virtual sessions and ended this past Saturday. He mentioned some of the highlights. A new Conference Lay Leader was nominated. A few churches, which had been slated for closing for several years, were officially closed. For quite a while, the Methodist Camps at Riverside (near LaBelle) and Centenary (near Tallahassee) have not been financially viable, and permission was given for the Conference to consider selling those properties. Information about the 2021 General Conference was mentioned.

Cuba: Carol reported that almost 4 tons of goods were cargo shipped to Cuba in late August. It is hoped they will reach Cuba by Christmas. Gulf Cove UMC sent more goods than any other church. We shipped several large items, including a wheelchair and a sewing machine. She said the Crafty Ladies were gracious enough to pay for the salaries of both pastors for the next year. *Thank you, Crafty Ladies!*

Joan reported that Dan Christopherson advised that he plans to take funds to Cuba when he next goes, which he hopes will be in November. Right now, he has \$7,000 from GCUMC to take, which will cover all or most of our commitment for August 2020 thru July 2021. She noted that they are able to contact more of us thru Facebook and Messenger.

Jeanne said that both of our Cuban sister churches are growing. They are both adding missionaries.

We have learned that Pastor Siubel in the Frank Pais church is having severe stomach issues. He needs an endoscopy, but there are no medications or sterilization supplies to do the procedure. As a result, his pain continues. Prayers are lifted up for him.

A/V Booth: Alfred reported that one of the computers that was being used in the A/V booth had been donated and was being used for our online, live streaming services thru Facebook. Unfortunately, after we more substantially entered the online world in March, we quickly learned that it is not meeting our needs. To show how effective online communication can be, Pastor Mike informed us about four individuals he recently baptized. They connected to us through the B&GC and then started watching the online sermons after we “closed” in March. Joan pointed out that we also now offer Pastor Becky’s Living the Good News Bible Study live streaming via Facebook, and have people from other states joining us. After a discussion of from which accounts the cost of a new computer could be pulled, Dawn advised that she had already ordered the new computer earlier today.

Nominations Committee: Pastor Mike said the committee will be meeting this Thursday to consider several vacancies in our leadership, including, among others, Leadership Board Chairman, one Trustee, Lay Leader, and Emmaus Contact. He said that Sarah Taylor will be the new Embrace Coordinator (Discipleship and Nurture). Dawn advised she downloaded Lay Servant papers today.

ADJOURNING

Pastor Mike thanked Alfred for leading today’s meeting, and asked Joan if she would lead next month’s meeting. Joan graciously agreed. After discussion, the next Leadership Board meeting was pushed up a week. It will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm with a prayer by Linda.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary