

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

October 12, 2020 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Joan Priest (Acting Chairman), Pastor Mike Weaver, Doreen Alvarez, John Furtado, Mary Hilton, Jeanne Shrout, Linda Starck, Rick Starck, Sarah Taylor, Dawn Tesauro, Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Joan.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of a correction to the minutes of the 9/21/2020 meeting.

Closet of Hope: Joan spoke with Sandy Palmer today. Sandy is the coordinator of our Closet of Hope ministry. Joan expressed concern that the Closet is not open during a time when many people probably need it. Sandy also is anxious to reopen if possible. She needs to speak with her volunteers. Things to be considered include the following: social distancing; masks; having people call to reserve a time, or come and wait outside; one family at a time inside for a set duration; publicity distributed; flyers to schools; notifying “regulars” by sending them a postcard. A major consideration involves whether the days and/or hours of operation should be expanded. Everyone present agreed it was a good idea to reopen the Closet. Sandy will be given the go-ahead so we can reopen safely!

Trunk or Treat: Mike said that he, Holly Tozer, and Sarah have discussed how trunk or treat could be handled, along with possible alternative activities. After discussion, they felt it best that we do not hold any event this year. It was noted that the CDC recently recommended that large gatherings not take place, and even small ones be held outside with social distancing. The CDC also said that having trunk or treat events where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots is a high-risk activity.

Staff Parish Relations: Doreen reported on SPR’s recommendation for the pastor’s salary package for 2021. Pastor Mike has declined a raise for next year since he accepted one for 2020. In addition, his accountable reimbursement amount was lowered to better reflect the amount he has used the past couple of years. As a result, for 2021, \$73,000 is the proposed pastor’s salary, with an accountable reimbursement fund of \$2,000, and a family health insurance supplement of \$18,967. After a short discussion, a consensus was reached that SPR’s recommendation be accepted.

Doreen also mentioned that October is Pastor Appreciation Month. *Pastor Mike, we greatly appreciate you and all you do for Gulf Cove United Methodist Church!*

Finance: Dawn advised that we are doing okay and meeting expenses. She said that going into October and not having to pull from the Reserve Fund is a great thing! The PPP loan is still being maintained in a separate bank account. Dawn said she is still waiting to hear what needs to be done to have the loan officially forgiven.

Joan said that, assuming the PPP loan is forgiven, she feels we should consider putting some or all of the PPP funds into the trustee account for their use in maintenance projects which need to be done.

Nominations: Pastor Mike stated that, although Joan Priest has accepted the position of Leadership Board Chairman for next year, he would like to ask her to accept that position for the remainder of this year. All agreed it was a good idea, and Joan graciously accepted. Pastor Mike also said that the following individuals have accepted the following leadership positions for 2021:

Leadership Board Chairman	Joan Priest	Finance Chairman	Alfred Current
Treasurer	Dawn Tesauro	Finance Member	Beverly Fonder
Financial Secretary	Jeanne Shroust	Finance Membervacant
Lay Member to Annual Conf	Doreen Alvarez	Trustee Class of 2021	Dave Devilbiss
Lay Leader	John Furtado	Trustee Class of 2022	Dave Fonder
Recording Secretary	Dana Hanson	Trustee Class of 2023	Jim Brown
Membership Secretary	Dawn Tesauro	Nominations Chairman	Mike Weaver
Camps & Retreats Rep	Mike Weaver	Nom. Vice Chairman	John Furtado
SPR Chairman	Doreen Alvarez	Nom. Class of 2021	Linda Starck
SPR Class of 2021	John McGuire	Nom. Class of 2022	Anne Devilbiss
SPR Class of 2021	Cindy Rowland	Nom. Class of 2023	Rebecca Stephenson
SPR Class of 2022	Deb Howell	Children's Home Rep	Mary Hilton
SPR Class of 2022	Dave Crandall	Experience Coordinator	Sue Betz
SPR Class of 2023	John Furtado	Embrace Coordinator	Sarah Taylor
SPR Class of 2023	Chuck Mortensen	Engage Coordinators	Michael Weaver & Alfred Current
Interpreter of Connectional Giving	Alfred Current		

Doreen said she would like to have someone fill the Alternative Lay Member to Annual Conference position so they could also learn the specifics of the position. Pastor Mike pointed out that the second Finance Member position remains vacant. Don Grein is stepping down as a nominated member of the trustees, and instead will be on trustee task teams.

The four EEE Coordinators are voting members of the Leadership Board. They are not in charge of the individual ministries under them, but instead, are a liaison between the ministries and the Leadership Board. They report on the status of their ministries.

Trustees: Rick advised that during discussions on campus expansion, the trustees were asked to determine how much was needed to maintain our current buildings, as well as come up with estimates for any new buildings. To put it another way, the trustees should start putting together an overall plan with each of the items identified as to how much maintenance would be – our existing buildings, the van, the barn, anything that needs repairs – plus what would it cost us with new buildings in place. He pointed out that completing this project will take quite a bit of time and should be completed by the new Trustee team next year. Rick said he would be available to help. These estimated maintenance amounts would become part of the trustee's budget.

Rick mentioned that the trustees would like to maintain a balance of \$10,000 which would be immediately available for emergencies. Since their current balance is less than that amount,

there is little available for currently needed maintenance – including maintenance of the portables which must last for at least the next 5 years. Joan commented that it might be a good thing to present it to the congregation.

Rick reiterated what Dave Devilbiss told us last month, that there is mold behind the cabinets on the back wall, along with problems within the wall itself. Joan added that, since that area will probably be an integral part of renovations under the new master plan, we can hopefully keep that repair to a minimum. Rick felt that pouring concrete next to the outside wall should divert excess water away from the building and buy us time.

Expansion Team: Joan reported that John and Greg had Rick's signed contract. She met with John, and he said it would be about a month before we would see his idea of a master concept plan based on their discussions.

EEE Experience: John advised that Pastor Becky's Sunday evening Bible Study class had about 800 online observers during September. He does not believe that all our small groups are keeping and turning in attendance data. Any information or attendance sheets that small groups submit can be placed in the "Financial Secretary" mail slot in Room 109. It was mentioned that Sandy Doty is still the Small Group coordinator, and perhaps she can be contacted about passing this request on to the small groups. John reported that during September, between the online and in-person services, we had in the range of 400 to 700 individuals watching or in attendance on each Sunday. Joan pointed out that we are still under a learning curve when it comes to our online services, especially when we get new, upgraded equipment as we learn it is needed. Doreen added that there is a difference, too, when the A/V booth accesses the "guest" internet network which is also accessed by numerous individuals. Our worship service broadcast is better if the A/V booth accesses the "office" internet network.

A few individuals have expressed their concern that our in-person worship services are not what they used to be. It was mentioned that people need to remember that we are slowly going back to where we were. For instance, it will be quite a while before the choir makes an appearance at any of the traditional services. However, we were told that there will be *live* music (but not the choir) at the October 25, traditional services.

EEE Embrace: Sarah reported that the youth have been meeting in-person for about three weeks: the middle schoolers on Sundays and the high schoolers on Wednesdays. There are upwards of 7 youth at each session, and a couple new youth as well. The youth are selling calendars again this year (\$12 each), and they should be available soon; all proceeds will be used for the youth mission trip in 2021. (*Mike said that the youth could probably sell 2020 calendars and a book of matches for twice the price!* 😊) Sarah will be attending a virtual National Youth Workers Convention next week. She said that Holly Tozer is looking forward to reopening Jesus Rocks on Wednesdays, but Holly wants to talk with parents and contact the Boys & Girls Club before she does.

EEE Engage: Mike said that, although we are not holding a Trunk or Treat this year, Thanksgiving is around the corner. Don Teague is coordinating the event and will be meeting with Alfred Current soon. People can contact Don to volunteer to help. Doreen said that

<https://www.SignUpGenius.com> is an online tool that can help with volunteering. If someone were computer-challenged, he/she could contact another person who can enter their information for them.

Joan mentioned that our sister churches in Cuba still need our prayers. She said the more they need physically (food, clothing, medicine, etc.), the more passionate in worship they become. Our District's Cuba Coordinator, Dan Christopherson, is starting a letter-writing campaign to our congressmen and senators, asking that they end the embargo America has against Cuba. The Cuban government is not being hurt by the embargo, but the Cuban people are being hurt profoundly. If any of our church members would like to help by writing one or more letters, they should contact the office to obtain sample letters along with the proper addresses to use. The stomach issues that Pastor Siubel in Frank Pais was experiencing recently have improved somewhat, but he still needs a medical procedure for which there are no medicines or sterilization supplies available.

Habitat for Humanity: Dawn said that she had received a letter from Habitat asking if our church would be volunteering and supporting them monetarily next year as it has in the past. Pastor Mike said that Sam Walters and Larry Davis (who coordinated this ministry in the past) should be contacted. We should know soon if we will be able to help in 2021.

Charge Conference: Mike reported that this year's Conference will be held partially via Zoom on Sunday, October 25, at 2pm. Our church members will be present in our sanctuary, and the Conference leaders will participate via Zoom. Any members who cannot make it in person can obtain the Zoom information to join virtually.

Adjourning:

Pastor Mike thanked all those who are rolling off leadership positions at the end of this year for their service in the past. And he sends a Thank You to all those who are willing to take on a new leadership position in 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm with a prayer by Doreen. The next Leadership Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2020, at 7:00pm, in the sanctuary. Those who would prefer to attend this meeting via Zoom should notify Joan or Pastor Mike.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary