

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

January 18, 2021 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Joan Priest (Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Doreen Alvarez, Sue Betz, Jim Brown, Alfred Current, Dave Devilbiss, Beverly Fonder, Dave Fonder, Jeanne Shrout, Sarah Taylor, Dana Hanson

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

Opening Comments: The first thing Joan said was that we pray we will all be able to get our COVID-19 vaccinations soon.

Mission Relevance: Pastor Mike reminded us that we previously asked for input regarding our way of life in light of the COVID pandemic. How can we continue to adapt to our motto of helping everyone experience, embrace, and engage Jesus in our community? Positive feedback was received. Some suggestions that were received included the following:

- Reinstigate calling our members who are not able to attend in person. This has already been started again, with the suggestion that people be called once a month.
- Two of our youth, Caleb and Shane, are assisting Derek in the sound booth.
- More in-person music is being scheduled by Roy. In some worship services, while Roy was being shown via video, we tried to have live singers with him, and Angela tried to play the piano or organ with him. Unfortunately, the timing was off considerably. Different things are being tried, and some may not work.
- Pastor Mike is meeting soon with Derek to find out what he needs to help in his job.
- We need to be very intentional in resetting microphones for each service to enhance online viewing.
- We are not a “consumer” campus – we are a “disciple” campus. We need worship and ministry suggestion ideas from all who attend our church.
- The Big Brothers & Big Sisters Reading Buddies program, because of the pandemic, may be assigning set hours on the Myakka River Elementary campus. We could also check into establishing it here on our own campus with the Boys & Girls Club.
- We have mastered the drive-thru meal programs!
- We are in the process of implementing a “Suggestion Box” idea.
- Jesus Stories can be shared with the Boys & Girls Club during a few minutes during some afternoons. Possibly Pastor Mike, Sarah Taylor, or Holly Tozer could make some of the Bible stories relevant to today’s happenings. The short sessions could be opened up to the children’s questions, especially if they are separated into older and younger children.

Staff Parish Relations: Doreen advised their first meeting will be held soon. She had no other news to present at this time.

Finance: Alfred advised that the forgiveness criteria for the PPP loan has been established. Dawn should be completing the necessary forms soon. Alfred said he believes that we will qualify for forgiveness since, in his view, we meet all the criteria. Rick added that he believes

the determination will be made quickly once the paperwork is submitted to the bank. He advised that consideration is being given to another round of PPP loans. He recommends that, if they do become available and *assuming* we meet the qualifications, we should apply again. All agreed and granted pre-authorization to apply for a second PPP loan.

The intention of the original PPP loan was to cover salaries and operating expenses (such as utilities, mortgage, etc.). So far, we have used \$8,000 of the loan to pay for salaries. Thankfully, we used nothing from our Reserve Fund during 2020. Alfred pointed out that our spendable income received during 2020 was \$29,800 less than what we received during 2019. Rick added that 2020 total expenses was \$62,000 less than what was budgeted. Joan reminded us that, since we started meeting in-person again late last year, 2021 expenses are likely to be higher, especially our utilities.

Pastor Becky cautioned us, based on what she has seen happen in the past. She said when many churches have reached a point similar to where we are, they start looking at the budget to see what can be cut. Each time they review their budget, they end up making more cuts because they received less income. Unfortunately, many of the categories that are cut are the categories in which investment is needed to enable the church to grow. She said we need to be careful that we not start going down that spiral of cuts which results in not investing in growth. She stated that the places that tend to be cut first are things like Christian education, youth, worship, advertising, and supplies – the very places from which we get our growth.

Joan asked if the interest in the Florida Foundation account had been moved to the Trustee's account. After the meeting, Dawn Tesauro advised that, on 11/20/2020, interest in the amount of \$4,139.77 was transferred from the Foundation account, and by journal entry was moved into account #320.039, Trustee Fund. As of 12/31/2020, the balance in the Foundation account was the same as its original amount, \$75,100.

Jeanne advised that a condolence card was sent to the family of Ron Caminiti after his death. He was our auditor for many years. We have not yet found a replacement for him.

Alfred said that a Thank You email was sent to Lynn Dorler (the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club) for the new commercial grade refrigerator and freezer that the B&GC purchased.

2021 Budget: Alfred turned our attention to this year's budget. He reminded us that Dawn said that most requests for updated budgets were not returned to her. As a result, she used for the 2021 budget many of the same amounts that were used for 2020. This results in a proposed 2021 budget of \$517,637, as compared to the 2020 budget of \$517,384. Dawn also said that she has not yet received from Conference the final amount of our property insurance, so she is using last year's budget amount of \$18,000.

Joan reminded us, as has been done numerous times in past years, that a budget for a church is not like a budget for a business, because the church is a strange business which is faith-based.

A consensus was reached whereby the budget as presented by Finance tonight was accepted as our church's 2021 budget.

Endowments: Rick said he believed there were some accounts with a fair amount of money in them which should be transferred to the Foundation. The general rule of endowments is that we cannot touch the principal; we should access only the income that is generated. Our endowment accounts (#104.120 and #104.130) were initially rather small and so they were kept in our accounts here. Now, however, there is over \$32,000 in them, and we should consider transferring those funds to the Foundation in accordance with our rules. In doing so, they will earn more interest. Doreen opined that our scholarship accounts (#104.100 and #104.110) are also endowments, but the title of the accounts does not state that. Only the interest earned on them can be used to provide scholarships.

Rick explained that an endowment may be designated for a specific purpose, and our Endowment Committee must follow the donor's directions with the income earned. However, according to our endowment program rules, the money should be invested with the Foundation. He said that the Committee has never met since the program was established.

Our endowment resolution states that the Committee is comprised of the following members:

1. The Senior Pastor (Non-voting Member)
2. A representative of the Administrative Council named by the Administrative Council
3. A representative of the Finance Committee named by the Finance Committee
4. A representative of the Board of Trustees named by the Board of Trustees
5. The Treasurer
6. Three to five persons nominated by the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (hereafter referred to as "the At Large Members")

Joan said that we should make a presentation to the congregation about our endowment program. Most importantly, we need to be sure that we are properly in compliance with all rules of the program. She said that the Endowment Committee should meet in the near future.

Nominations: Pastor Mike said there is an opening on the Finance Committee. They are currently speaking with one individual about taking that position. Rick said he would volunteer to fill an ad hoc position on the Endowment Committee.

Trustees: Dave outlined several things that have been repaired or replaced in the recent past. He recently met with a representative from Englewood Glass regarding the double-glass doors in our church which are not working or closing properly. The cost to replace them could easily reach \$20,000. However, the representative said he did not believe they needed to be replaced – they only needed to be adjusted, at a much lesser cost (\$450 for one or possibly two doors). The total cost will most certainly exceed \$1,000, and Dave said he needs approval from the Leadership Board before he can spend more than that.

A consensus was reached that the Trustees should spend what is necessary to adjust the double-glass doors.

Dave advised that he has been asked if the road to the Barn could be resurfaced, and was told that it would cost from \$1,500 to \$5,000, depending on what was done. Dave pointed out, however, that there are no potholes or other real problems with the road as it is right now. During the ensuing discussions, the general feeling was that resurfacing would be cosmetic – that the road does not really need it now. There are other priorities for which the money can be used.

The consensus was reached that we should not pay for resurfacing the road to the Barn at this time.

Rick suggested that, assuming our PPP loan is forgiven, we should consider giving \$15,000 or \$20,000 of that money to the Trustees so they will have it available. The Trustees have two accounts available for their use. As of 12/31/2020, the Balance Sheet indicates that account #320.028 (Facility Upkeep) had \$4,967 and account #320.039 (Trustee Fund) had \$7,614. When asked why there are two accounts, Rick explained that the Facility Upkeep account can be used only for repairs to our facility, and there are amounts donated which are designated solely for upkeep. The Trustee Fund is used for other things in addition to repairs (such as hiring attorneys, expenses for legal filings, etc.).

Dave advised that **a new request form for supplies or repairs** is in the Trustee mail slot in room #114 (the conference room). Dave asks that everyone use this new form instead of making him remember what was said.

EEE Overall: Pastor Mike advised that every leader of our numerous ministries and groups has been contacted and advised who their EEE coordinator is. They were asked to periodically provide updates or information to their coordinator. It was pointed out to them that it is not the coordinator's job to contact them every month. A list of our current EEE roster is attached to these minutes.

EEE Experience: Sue reported the following December attendance numbers that she received from John Furtado:

Date/Event	In-Person	On-Line
12/21/2020 Blue Christmas totals	22	163
12/24/2020 Christmas Eve totals		
3pm	35	148
5pm	65	325
8pm	56	165
11:30pm	18	142
Advent Study (Pastor Becky), totals for 4 Sunday evenings 6-8pm	85	364
Four Sunday mornings in December (12 regular worship services)	134 avg per service	2,121 total, 177 avg per service

Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 17. Pastor Mike and Don Teague will be hosting our drive-thru ashes-to-go from 7-9am with free coffee. We will also have our regular Ash Wednesday service that evening.

EEE Embrace: Sarah advised that the Youth are getting back to a normal schedule. They are watching "The Chosen" series in their meetings. She and Holly Tozer are planning on having an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27 (the day before Palm Sunday). They are also hoping to hold Vacation Bible School this summer. The elementary children (primarily) will be planting flowers in our new Education Wing entryway "planters" that were just installed to replace the worn-out timbers. This Planting & Pizza Party is set for Sunday, January 31, at 12:30pm.

EEE Engage:

Boy Scouts. Pastor Mike said their annual chartering fee is due soon. Although the Men's Group has paid for it in the past, they do not have sufficient funds to pay for it this year. Since they are hosted by GCUMC, the church should cover it if the Men's Group cannot. The total cost is expected to be around \$1,000. Pastor Mike said the Crafty Ladies have been covering the annual fees for the Girl Scouts who meet at GCUMC.

After discussion, a consensus was reached that the church should pay for the annual chartering fee for the Boy Scouts.

Movie Night. Pastor Mike would like to have an outdoor movie night possibly bi-monthly or quarterly, before the hot summer months arrive. All the necessary equipment can be rented. He wants to check with Tom Eisele of our grounds crew to find out which area would be the best in which to do it. The community could also be invited. Joan pointed out that we have asked the Men's Group or the grounds crew to provide the Amdro to attack the fireants, and the County to spray for mosquitos. It was suggested that we have the movie in our front yard next to route 776. By doing so, all the passing community would notice it. Pastor Mike said that, because of the way our campus is laid out, it is not really conducive to a "drive-in" where people would stay in their cars. It is better suited for people to bring chairs and gather around the movie screen.

Boys & Girls Club. Pastor Mike said we are connecting more and more with the B&GC. Some of the youngsters recognize our adults, even when out in the community.

Pig Pickin'. A general discussion was held about our 8th Annual Pig Pickin'. The following were recommended or pointed out for this year:

- Because of social distancing, etc., it was felt no craft fair should be held this year – at least not in conjunction with the Pig Pickin'.
- Some passersby would see masks and say they wouldn't want to come here. Other passersby would see masks and say they wouldn't come here without them.
- If a craft fair was held, we should consider renting porta-potties this year instead of allowing people into the church.

- The Pig Pickin' should be a drive-thru event (as was done for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners).
- Instead of the pick-your-own-cookies from the Cookie Dash table, we could have pre-packaged cookies to sell.
- Tickets can be pre-sold as has been previously done.

Expansion Team: Joan advised that they have had their meeting with representatives from Charlotte County regarding pre-approval of our master concept. One question the County had dealt with required parking; they believe we will need more. However, we have learned that we are required to have only enough parking to cover the seats in the sanctuary. Another issue deals with the Conway Road boundary (on the south side of the church). The actual boundary line needs to be recorded. John and Greg are our engineer and landscape architect; both were involved in coming up with the master concept. Once pre-approval of the master concept is received from the County, more details will be addressed by John, Greg, and the Expansion Team task force.

It was emphasized by Joan and Rick that a Capital Fund campaign is definitely needed in our church. We will be able to contact Conference for guidance on how to conduct the capital campaign.

An integral part of the project is that we are still planning this expansion in conjunction with the B&GC. It is likely that their building will be completed and usable before we have raised the funds we need for our buildings. That, however, is a great thing because we will be able to use their facility (just as they use ours) when our current buildings are torn down.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm with a prayer by Pastor Mike. Since the next scheduled meeting falls on a holiday, next month's Leadership Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary

E.E.E. LEADERSHIP, 1/18/2021

EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR (WITNESS)	Sue Betz	
Community Events	See “Engage”	
Sunday Services	Office	
	Audio-Video	Derek Hughes
	Chancel Choir	Roy Engler
	Handbell Choir	Roy Engler
	Kids’ Church	Holly Tozer
	In His Steps (Dancing)	Elaye Wong
	Liturgists & Scripture Readers	Betty Hansell (Trad’l) & Charlotte Halbert (Cont.)
	Praise Band	Joe Pariseau
Worship Committee	vacant	
	Hospitality	Linda Starck
	Service Stewards	vacant
	Seasonal Planning	Pastor Mike Weaver

EMBRACE COORDINATOR (DISCIPLESHIP/NURTURE)	Sarah Taylor (See also “Engage”)	
Camps & Retreats	Pastor Mike Weaver	
Campus Ministry Rep	Deb Howell	
Caring Ministry Visitation	Ken Priest, Bob Wollmacher	
Celebration of Life Events	Anne Devilbiss	
Congregational Care	Pastor Becky Stephenson	
Connectional Giving	John Furtado	
Covenant Groups	Pastor Mike Weaver	
Crafty Ladies	MaryEllen Eisele	
Disciple Programs	Pastor Becky Stephenson	
Previous Friend to Friend	(Sandy Doty is working to establish a new group)	
Jesus Rocks	Holly Tozer	
Journey in Faith Programs	Pastor Becky Stephenson	
Ladies Who Lunch	Sandy Doty	
Men’s Group	Tom Eisele	
Nurture Telephone Calls	Joyce Furtado, Virginia Bathurst, Judy Boyer	
Small Groups	Sandy Doty	
	After Dinner Group (Wed.)	John Furtado
	Faithful Ladies (Wed.)	Kelly Weaver
	Genesis (Wed.)	John Dorotics
	Midweek Boost (Wed.)	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Pastor’s Bible Study (Wed.)	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Seekers 2 (Sun.)	Ken Priest
	Men Behaving Dadly (Wed.)	Pastor Mike Weaver
UM Youth Fellowship	Sarah Taylor	
Wayfinders Singles	Nancy Spaulding (seeking a replacement)	

ENGAGE COORDINATOR (OUTREACH/EVANGELISM)	Alfred Current & Pastor Mike Weaver	
Outreach	Alfred Current	
	Al-Anon	Office
	Alcoholics Anonymous	Office
	All Pro Dad at Myakka	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Boy Scouts	Larry Davis
	Boys & Girls Club	Jessica Anderson; Lynn Dorler
	Campus Ministry	Deb Howell
	Children's Home Rep	Mary Hilton
	Christmas Dinner	Anne Devilbiss
	Closet of Hope	Sandy Palmer
	Creation Care Ministry	Dee Grafe
	Easter Festival & Egg Hunt	Holly Tozer, Sarah Taylor
	Englewood Helping Hand	Kim Bruemleve, April Chattinger
	Fall Festival	Holly Tozer
	First Monday Supper	Anne Devilbiss
	Girl Scouts	Office
	Habitat for Humanity	Sam Walters, Jerry Spurgeon, Larry Davis
	Inglenook ALF Bingo	Dana Hanson
	Knit for Kids	MaryEllen Eisele
	Myakka & Vineland Elementary	Alfred Current
	Narcotics Anonymous	Office
	Pig Pickin' & Cookie Dash & Craft Fair	Alfred Current, Anne Devilbiss, Barbara Garafolo
	Team Cuba	John & Carol McGuire
	Thanksgiving Dinner	Don Teague
	Trunk or Treat	Holly Tozer
	Vacation Bible School	Holly Tozer
Evangelism	Pastor Mike Weaver	
	Courage Over Cancer	Ken & Joan Priest
	Dinner Church	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Emmaus	vacant
	Kairos	Ray Dunfee
	Kairos Outside	Loretta Barche
	Stephen Ministries	Ken Priest, Ula Christopher