

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

October 18, 2021 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Joan Priest (Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Doreen Alvarez, Sue Betz, Anne Devilbiss, Dave Devilbiss, Beverly Fonder, Dave Fonder, John Furtado, Carol McGuire, John McGuire, Ken Priest, Jeanne Shrout, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Sarah Taylor, Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with a devotion on Wesleyan Heritage and prayer by Joan Priest. Joan conveyed some information from a class she is currently taking. John Wesley did not break with the Church of England or the Anglican Church. He ascribed to everything they believed, and supported all the creeds. His desire was to make this available to ALL people, so taking worship outside “church” to the work fields, and establishing home classes started bringing more folks to Christ. Wesley’s methods were referred to as: “practical divinity” -- warm heart and active hands, which is what we preach (love and service).

Charles Wesley was the poet/hymn writer. His verses were the “underpinning” of John Wesley’s messages. This is called “versified divinity” because these verses spoke to communion, the nativity, the resurrection, and to individual spiritual experiences. These hymns were set to Bach, Handel, Beethoven, opera, contemporary, and folk songs of the time, NOT to bar-room songs as has been alluded to in the past.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of any needed corrections to the minutes of the 9/20/2021 meeting.

Opening Comments: Mike updated us on the situation that occurred during the 8am service on Sunday, October 17. A medical situation involving a congregant, necessitated 911 to be called. It was a blessing to see various members/ushers assisting. Pastor Mike prayed for the situation and was able to continue worship.

While our parishioner was being treated by the emergency medical technicians, a homeless man entered the sanctuary. Although he was not violent, his behavior was disruptive to worship. A member of our security team was alerted immediately and assisted with the situation. After a period of time being inside the church, he was escorted off the premises and ultimately arrested for interrupting an active church service (a misdemeanor). The police explained that only by being arrested can he get into a program where to receive the help he needs. Although he had disturbed 16 other area businesses, the police could not arrest him for what he did or said in those locations. The man had also been around our church campus on at least four separate occasions prior to Sunday; during only two of those times was he *not* intimidating.

Gulf Cove UMC has a security team, but their anonymity is intentional. Some intruders can become more aggressive or agitated by police, EMTs, or others in authority. Situations like this are exactly why we have trained security people within our own congregation who do not *look like* security. We do our best to have at least one of our internal security people and a trained

medical person at each worship service. Pastor Mike said we may have to consider hiring a police resource officer to be present during our worship services, like we had in 2019.

All are reminded, if he or anyone like him shows up again, make a note as to the circumstances, what he looks like, what he is wearing, etc. Then notify the office.

Charge Conference: This year's conference was held via Zoom, and it is hoped that next year we will be able to gather in person for cluster conferences which have been held in the past. During the short video on diversity, it was noted that our churches should be reflective of the area in which we are located. However, all churches will be different since they each belong to a different community.

Staff Parish Relations: Doreen Alvarez said all evaluations are done. Angela Navarro has submitted an item for the church bulletin about her offer to instruct our children on the piano. Doreen has not spoken in depth with Joe Pariseau about professional development that may be available to him. Angela has indicated a desire to take organ lessons to improve her skills (part of her professional development), but they are having trouble locating anyone in the area who offers that type of instruction. Duff Duer is due back soon and hopefully he will resume playing the drums for the Praise Band. Doreen said that whenever she speaks with an area music teacher about drummers, she is always told, "every church needs a drummer." Joan asked that whenever Joe decides firmly on the fundraiser for new equipment, that the specifics be brought before the Leadership Board.

Nominations: Pastor Mike advised that all vacancies in leadership positions have been filled. He asked that if anyone's name is listed and you are concerned about filling the position during 2022, please contact Pastor Mike. The 2022 GCUMC Church Leadership roster (including the EEE roster) is attached to these minutes and is effective starting 1/1/2022.

Finance: John Furtado advised that, although we are short on donations, we are paying our bills. There is about \$37,000 in the PPP loan account. Since both loans were forgiven, we will not have to pay back anything. There is about \$38,000 in the Reserve Fund. We have not had to pull any funds from this account thanks to the PPP loans. It is hoped that once all our northern friends return, things will look up as far as donations are concerned.

John suspects that, for the most part, if someone does not attend in-person services, then they likely do not donate to the church. He believes only 10 to 15 families tithe their actual 10%. As always, the more people who attend regularly, the greater the donations. He pulled a graph off the Conference website that showed GCUMC average in-person attendance over the last several years. It reflected the following average weekly attendance each year:

2015 = 361 average	2018 = 326 average
2016 = 355 average	2019 = 319 average
2017 = 339 average	2020 = 213 average

Pastor Becky emphasized that offerings are directly influenced by attendance, and when people come, it is imperative that they "plug in" (find a ministry in which they want to participate). Pastor Mike added that growth is achieved through personal invitation. Donations are one way

to help, but giving service and giving your time are other ways to help. John McGuire added that new people could be invited into one of our small groups because that is the way to develop relationships with other people within our church.

2022 Budget: For individuals who did not respond to her requests for budget needs, Dawn Tesauro reviewed their spending pattern to arrive at a budget figure for 2022. Our apportionments for next year were reduced by \$2,417. As in the past, we will probably not receive next year's insurance premium information from Conference until January or February, so Dawn added 10% to the 2021 figure. She arrived at a total budget for 2022 of \$512,621, which compares favorably with this year's total budget of \$517,637.

Ken Priest pointed out that we are strong in our local mission donations despite the low amounts received which pay for the day-to-day operations of the church. But we are one of the few churches in the Florida Conference which has paid its Apportionments in full, every year, since GCUMC was founded.

Financial Peace University: In August 2010 and January 2011, John Furtado facilitated two of these 13-week programs created by Dave Ramsey. In August 2011, Brenda Dalton facilitated another 13-week program. In February 2013, Brenda facilitated their shorter 9-week program. John hopes to offer the 9-week program again, and hopes to promote it in December. This program was previously advertised to the community, and several "outside" people also attended. Ken emphasized that the program teaches people how to budget, which includes planning for retirement and tithing.

Online Giving: Joan said we need to remind everyone that giving online can be done in several ways. Doreen mentioned that she just received an email from Vanco regarding its GivePlus program: the app which is used to make the donation is changing, and people will need to update their app. GCUMC accepts donations by several methods. Many methods allow you to select a one-time payment or establish recurring payments:

- *GivePlus+*: This special program has 3 online giving methods:
 1. the GCUMC website "donate" button.
 2. the smartphone app, uses your credit/debit card, checking account, or savings account [this is the app that Doreen said was updating].
 3. text the amount to donate by dialing 941-236-5788.
- *ACH Payments*: Electronic payments made by your bank to GCUMC from your account.
- *Bill Pay*: Paper checks issued by your bank to GCUMC from your account.
- *PayPal*: Donations made via PayPal are applied solely to the General Fund.
- Write a check or make sure you have enough cash.

Trustees: Dave Devilbiss reported on several different items:

- Cleaning and painting the roof estimate was received: \$82,500. (We paid \$52,400 when it was last done in 2009.)
- Right now, when things break, they get fixed.

- The walkways and railings leading into the portables need to have boards replaced. As John Furtado mentioned, even if we had the money to start the campus expansion today, it could still be a couple of years before the portables are replaced. So, for safety reasons alone, the boards should be replaced. **All present agreed.**
- Although Dave Devilbiss and Dave Fonder still do most of the work, they have a list of individuals who can help the trustees when needed.
- Oaks Cove is now income-producing. The renters, Dan and Jane Skeens, have also agreed to pay two-thirds of the monthly electric bill.
- There are some exterior items on Oaks Cove that still need to be done. Dan Skeens has offered to take care of them.
- Lindsey Cleaning, with which we have a cleaning contract, comes in on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We tell Jo Lindsey what needs to be done, but Jo determines how best to accomplish each task. As a result, she is more akin to an independent contractor and not an employee of GCUMC. Because of this relationship, the Lindsey Cleaning contract is handled by the trustees.
- Anne said the woman who cleans the kitchen after use by the Boys & Girls Club does a very good job.

With regard to cleaning and expenses, it needs to be determined how much Lindsey Cleaning is responsible for, and how much the Boys & Girls Club is responsible for. Ken Priest handles discussions with the BGC. Dave Devilbiss handles discussions with Jo Lindsey. Pastor Mike reminded us that our relationship with the BGC is considered to be more of an outreach than it is a business relationship. In addition to the \$500 mentioned below, the BGC also pays a smaller amount which is meant to help defray the increase in costs due to computer access by their kids. The Memorandum of Understanding we have with the BGC contains several statements which are relevant to this conversation:

- “The terms of this MOU ... will be reviewed annually by the Parties.”
- “BGC will be responsible to keep Buildings A & D clean; along with cleaning up any other areas used for programming activities.”
- “BGC agrees to pay \$500.00 per month to GCUMC to help off-set additional expenses incurred during programming hours. Examples: utilities and cleaning.”
- “BGC agrees to fix or replace any damages caused by kids during club programming hours.”

Dave advised that an anonymous donor gave \$6,000 for the Education Wing hallway floor and Office entryway (and Serving Room floor if there are sufficient funds). The old carpet will be replaced with wood-look premium vinyl flooring.

Dave said that with the approval of the Leadership Board, he wants to put a stone/gravel pad where the BGC bus sits. If we don't locate a bobcat that we can use to move the gravel, it will have to be done manually. The items needed for the pad would be donated. **All present agreed the pad should be built.**

EEE Experience:

Attendance: Sue Betz advised that the average weekly attendance for the month of September was as follows:

	8:00am	9:30am	11:00am
In-Person	48	72	46
Online viewings	108	131	92

In collecting the information, John Furtado advised that he checks the number of views of each online service several times a month, until Dawn send the numbers to Conference. It was asked whether, if someone viewed all three services online, they would be counted once or three times. The answer was three times. It is similar to when people sign the pew pads in the sanctuary. If they attend all three services and sign the pew pad three times, they are counted three times. However, Jeanne pointed out that consistently for the 9:30 service, only about 68% of the people who attend actually sign the pew pad; that there is always a substantial difference between the 9:30 actual head count and those who signers. Pastor Mike pointed out that one reason for signing the pew pads is to keep a nurturing eye out for those who do not attend. If they do not come for a few weeks in a row, we try to contact them to be sure they are okay or whether they need any help with something.

Counting People: Conference asks only for the total number of people who attend worship services, which *includes* the number of children. They do not ask that the number of children be broken out. However, Pastor Mike said he prefers to see the number of children because it does reflect the growth in the children's and youth ministries. He said "children" would be 18 and under, but there is no need to ask anyone their age – *he said to just take a guess*. On the other hand, several people present saw no reason to continue breaking out the number of people on the chancel.

Salty Service: With regard to reporting Salty Service numbers, Dawn checked with the District and learned that Salty Service cards are no longer being tracked. As a result, they have been removed from the pew pads.

Acolytes: Joan has already volunteered to train the acolytes. She would like to attend Youth Gatherings and Jesus Rocks classes to instruct the youth and children. Then those who are interested in being an acolyte can sign up to do so at the 9:30 service. It is possible that they could even carry the light out for 8:00 worship or bring it in for 11:00 worship. In addition, greeters could also act as acolytes if they are comfortable doing so. Joan would like to see us go back to walking down the center aisle to light and extinguish the candles with the long-handled candlelighter and candlesnuffer.

Communion: Weekly communion will resume in November for the 9:30 service.

EEE Embrace

Sarah Taylor said eight youth went to Heartland Farm. She said the older kids were a little too old for some of the activities, but all had a lot of fun.

The Youth Thanksgiving Food Drive is coming up, and she will probably put up donation boards. The plan is to have the youth pack bags on Saturday, November 13, with all the food being collected prior to then.

One new ministry, Campus Care, has been established. Dave Devilbiss is the overseer of this ministry.

Another new ministry is our prayer shawl ministry, officially named Comfort Shawl Journey. Sandy Doty is the creator of this ministry.

Pastor Becky will be leading a 10-week Journey in Faith Bible Study program starting on Wednesday, October 20, at 6:30, in #B.

A new Adult Sunday School Class is starting on October 24 at 11:00 in #109. Pastor Becky will get this class started using The Renegade Gospel by Mike Slaughter.

With regard to small groups, it was mentioned that long-time members of the groups do not want to leave to start a new group. Pastor Mike said the best way to handle that is for one person to help start the new group, but after a while that person returns to his or her former group.

With regard to our ministries, Pastor Mike said they are close to having the necessary pictures from all our different groups. The pictures of our various ministries should be hanging on our walls soon.

EEE Engage

Movie Night: Pastor Mike said there will be no movie in November. The plan is to start showing movies outside at 7pm starting in December, and continuing until it gets hot. They will be held on the second Friday of the month.

Boy Scouts: They are doing a good job acting as greeters on the second Sunday. With regard to their charter, the Florida Conference and the Boy Scouts USA of Florida have extended the existing charter to March 2022.

Penny Sunday: Yesterday, \$476.66 was donated and will be used by our Closet of Hope.

Thanksgiving: This year's community dinner will be a drive-thru. Don Teague has agreed to be in charge again this year. *Thank you, Don!*

Team Cuba: John McGuire said that, on October 2 at Christ Venice UMC, the BBQ lunch was delicious, and the presentation was fantastic. A check has been delivered to Dan

Christopherson to cover the cost of mailing supplements and vitamins. A lot of the hygiene items and OTC medications are in Cuba and will be distributed starting this week to the churches. Money for critical needs and to cover the pastors' salaries has been sent, and we believe it has been received.

First Monday Supper: Anne Devilbiss reported that October's dinner went well. She said only 15 people had *not* made reservations, so she thinks the new sign-up system available on our homepage is doing its job. They served 170 meals on October 4. Jeanne added that people were calling the next day asking to reserve meals for November!

Car Show with VMCCA: Ken Priest said a flyer has been prepared, and will be distributed, by the car club for this event on Saturday, January 15. Dave Devilbiss has indicated he will prepare hamburgers and hot dogs. The youth are considering handling drinks as a fundraiser. It is hoped the Boy Scouts will help with parking by the community. It is meant to be a fun afternoon, with a Pastor's Choice trophy being awarded. The basic information on the car show was contained as an attachment to the 9/20/2021 Leadership Board minutes. The flyer is attached to these minutes.

Expansion Team: Joan said there is nothing further to report at this time. A meeting is planned in the near future.

Adjournment: After discussion, it was decided there will be no meeting in November, and we should hold the December meeting one week early. Therefore, the next Leadership Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm with a prayer by Doreen. The devotion will be led by --?

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary

2022 GCUMC CHURCH LEADERSHIP (Rev. 10/20/2021)

LEADERSHIP BOARD	
Leadership Board CHAIR	Joan Priest
Pastor	Pastor Mike Weaver *
Treasurer	Dawn Tesauro **
Financial Secretary	Jeanne Shrout **
Lay Delegate to Conference	Doreen Alvarez
Lay Leader	John Furtado
Recording Secretary	Dana Hanson **
Staff-Parish Relations Chair	Doreen Alvarez
Finance Chair	Ken Priest; Co-John Furtado
Finance Member	Beverly Fonder
Finance Member	Ken Baus
Trustee 2022	Dave Fonder
Trustee 2023	Jim Brown
Trustee 2023	Rick Starck (Endowment Chair)
Trustee 2024	Richard Jacoby
Experience / Worship ***	Sue Betz
Embrace / Discipleship ***	Sarah Taylor
Engage / Evangelism & Outreach ***	Pastor Mike Weaver
At Large	Carol McGuire

* According to the Discipline, the Pastor is designated as a non-voting member of Trustees unless he is elected as a voting member. Pastor Mike Weaver was elected as a voting member of the Trustees in January 2019.

** Non-Voting

*** See E.E.E. Leadership roster on following pages.

OTHER POSITIONS APPOINTED BY THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	
Nominations Chair	Pastor Mike Weaver
Nominations Vice-Chair	John Furtado
Nominations 2022	Anne Devilbiss
Nominations 2023	Pastor Rebecca Stephenson
Nominations 2024	DeAnna Crandall
Nominations 2024	Stella Derflinger
SPR 2022	Deb Howell
SPR 2023	Dave Crandall
SPR 2023	John Furtado
SPR 2023	Chuck Mortensen
SPR 2024	C.T. Twardzik
Camps & Retreats Rep	Pastor Mike Weaver
Interpreter of Connectional Giving	Ken Priest
Children's Home Rep	Mary Hilton
Membership Secretary	Dawn Tesauro

STAFF			
Mike Weaver	Pastor	Joe Pariseau	Contemporary Music Dir
Dawn Tesauro	Administrative Asst	Roy Engler	Traditional Music Dir
Jeanne Shroust	Receptionist	Angela Navarro	Organist
Sarah Taylor	Youth Director	Derek Hughes	Audio/Visual Tech
Holly Tozer	Children's Director	Lindsey Cleaning LLC	Cleaning Service

E.E.E. LEADERSHIP, 10/20/2021

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 Care	Dave Devilbiss	
Campus Ministry Rep	Deb Howell	
Caring Ministry Visitation	Ken Priest, Bob Wollmacher	
Celebration of Life Events	Anne Devilbiss	
Comfort Shawl Journey	Sandy Doty	
Congregational Care	Pastor Becky Stephenson	
Connectional Giving	John Furtado	
Covenant Groups	Pastor Mike Weaver	
Crafty Ladies	MaryEllen Eisele	
Disciple Programs	Pastor Becky Stephenson	
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	

Secret Prayer Partners	MaryEllen Eisele	
Small Groups	Sandy Doty	
	Adult Sunday School (Sun 11:00)	Carol McGuire, Pastor Becky Stephenson
	After Dinner Group (Wed.)	John Furtado
	Midweek Boost (Wed.)	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Pastor's Bible Study (Wed.)	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Seekers 2 (Sun. 9:30)	Ken Priest
	Men Behaving Dadly (Wed.)	Pastor Mike Weaver
UM Youth Fellowship	Sarah Taylor	
Wayfinders Singles	Nancy Spaulding, Sandy Doty	

Engage Coordinator (Outreach/Evangelism)	Pastor Mike Weaver	
Outreach Ministries		
	Alcoholics Anonymous	Office
	All Pro Dad at Myakka	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Boy Scouts	Larry Davis
	Boys & Girls Club	Sandy Kenney, Jessica Anderson, Lynn Dorler
	Campus Ministry	Deb Howell
	Children's Home Rep	Mary Hilton
	Christmas Dinner	Anne Devilbiss
	Closet of Hope	Sandy Palmer
	Cookie Dash	Anne Devilbiss
	Craft Fair	Barbara Garafolo
	Creation Care Ministry	Dee Grafe
	Easter Festival & Egg Hunt	Holly Tozer, Sarah Taylor
	Englewood Helping Hand	Kim Bruemleve
	Fall Festival	Holly Tozer
	First Monday Supper	Anne Devilbiss
	Habitat for Humanity	Sam Walters, Jerry Spurgeon, Larry Davis
	Inglenook ALF Bingo	Dana Hanson
	Knit for Kids	MaryEllen Eisele
	Myakka & Vineland Elementary	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Narcotics Anonymous	Office
	Pig Pickin'	Alfred Current
	Team Cuba	John & Carol McGuire
	Thanksgiving Dinner	Don Teague
	Trunk or Treat	Holly Tozer
	Vacation Bible School	Holly Tozer

Evangelism Ministries		
	Courage Over Cancer	Ken & Joan Priest
	Dinner Church	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Emmaus	vacant
	Kairos	Pastor Mike Weaver
	Kairos Outside	Loretta Barche
	Stephen Ministries	Ken Priest, Ula Christopher



United Methodist Church
1100 S. McCall Rd. (Rt. 776)
Port Charlotte, Fl.

OPEN COLLECTOR CAR DISPLAY
11 AM TO 2 PM
Sat. January 15, 2022

Assisted by Vintage Motor Car Club of America
SW Florida Region

Open to all cars, trucks, Special Interest &
modified vehicles; All clubs & individual
owners' welcome

Limited
Trophies incl.
Pastor's Choice

Food & beverage available; DJ music by Tom's
Traveling Tunes; 50/50 raffle by VMCCA to
support local missions & outreach

Due to limited space preregistration required,
call Lee Royston, 941-626-9359

There is a \$5.00 entrance fee to benefit the
church

