

## Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

*Experience – Embrace – Engage*

### Leadership Board Meeting

February 22, 2022 – 7:00pm

#### **Attendees:**

Joan Priest (Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Jim Brown, Anne Devilbiss, Dave Devilbiss, Beverly Fonder, Dave Fonder, John Furtado, Richard Jacoby, Carol McGuire, John McGuire, Ken Priest, Jeanne Shrout, Rick Starck, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Sarah Taylor, Dana Hanson

Because February 21 was a holiday, this meeting was postponed one day.

**Opening Comments:** The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotion by Pastor Mike. Proverbs 18:21a says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” A mallet can smash & destroy bricks and yet can also gently tap new ones into place. Our words are the same way. We need to be aware of what and how we say things – words we use can both lift up and destroy. We need to use our speech with Godly purposes.

**Corrections to Previous Minutes:** The recording secretary was not notified of any needed corrections to the minutes of the 1/18/2022 meeting.

**Staff Parish Relations:** In the absence of Doreen Alvarez, Pastor Mike reported that the next SPR meeting is scheduled for March 10. Plans are to complete the annual review of employee conduct policies and child & youth protection policies; select a co-chair; schedule the parsonage walk-thru.

Sarah Taylor, our Youth Director, has announced that she accepted a position at her home church in Cynthiana, Kentucky. Our Youth Mission Trip to Gatlinburg will be her last activity at GCUMC. The Youth return from their trip on Saturday, July 2, and she will be moving during the following week. Sarah has substantially grown GCUMC’s Youth program, and she will be missed by all the adults and especially by our youth.

Youth Ministry Institute assisted during our hiring process when Sarah was hired, and they did an excellent job. They have been contacted about assisting us again. It is hoped that Sarah’s replacement will be selected before Sarah leaves.

**Finance:** John Furtado thanked Bev Fonder for locating a CPA for GCUMC. The CPA is Jen Diehl, located in Texas. Jen and Dawn Tesauro have been in contact already. Dawn will scan and electronically send the documents that Jen needs. Bev said that Jen has performed audits for nonprofits for many years and was the controller for North Lauderdale.

John advised that January spendable income was \$65,598. However, that included several one-time, yearly-giving donations. At the end of January, the PPP loan balance was \$15,581, and the Reserve Fund balance was \$41,768. One negative aspect about January is that it was a five-week month, which is usually beneficial for donations. However, the Sunday tornadoes on January 16 resulted in *significant* decreases in both attendance and donations.

John plans to start advertising the Financial Peace program during March. He is thinking about holding it at 6pm on Mondays starting in mid-April, allowing for enough daylight for those who do not like to drive at night. The program would run for 9 weeks.

Rick Starck has prepared a short presentation which both Joan Priest and Pastor Mike have reviewed. He would like to take a show-of-hands as to what people would like to hear (wills, IRAs, investments, endowments, etc.) as well as an indication that they would actually attend. After discussion, it was decided that Rick would make the presentation to the congregation on March 6, and he could arrange to have the actual program about a month after that. Several mentioned that people who live in Florida need to be aware that many Wills that are prepared in other states are not valid in Florida.

**Trustees:** It was noted that the fencing around the air conditioning units has recently been "repaired." As it turns out, John Furtado, Joel Wilson, and Tom Eisele power washed them and made some small repairs. *Thank you, John, Joel, & Tom!!! They look great!*

Joan asked if the contract with Lindsey Cleaning had been reviewed. Jim Brown said he has not yet spoken with Jo Lindsey about it. It was mentioned that some things listed in the contract are not being done. Jim said he would follow-up with Jo, and report back next month.

Dennis Guzik recently expressed an interest in getting the exterior and the roof cleaned up. As for the roof, Jim Brown and Dave Devilbiss pointed out that the roof needs to be pressure washed, sealed, painted, and/or re-roofed. Jim was asked to follow up with Dennis as to what he learned.

John McGuire asked about addressing safety issues with regard the portables – specifically, some of the walkway wood has rotted out, and some bends when walked on. We should find out what the cost would be and who can make the repairs to the walkways. They will be needed for at least five more years. Joan said possibly local businesses might be interested in donating some of the materials for the use of our church and also the Boys & Girls Club. Jim again will report back with costs and ideas for work crew.

Dave Devilbiss said the individuals who rent Oaks Cove are on track and up-to-date on rental payments.

Dave brought to the attention of the Board a problem that was encountered in the kitchen. After a recent meal, the stove and burners were cleaned. The two high-output burners have to be put back in a particular way, but this was not done. When Charles Hilton tried to turn on the burners, they did not ignite. He turned more gas on and when it finally ignited, it blew him backwards. Dave proposes that anyone using the stove/oven receive instruction by one of the kitchen workers prior to using and cleaning it on their own. This has been a policy in the past and needs to be enforced to avoid injury and damage.

**EEE Experience:**

In the absence of Sue Betz, John Furtado advised that the average attendance for the month of January was as follows:

	8:00am	9:30am	11:00am
In-Person	50	111	56
Online viewings	119	176	132

Pastor Mike said the women who are handling preparation of the communion elements are doing a good job. Some of our Youth have helped serve communion, which has led to some very productive conversations.

Both Joan and Pastor Mike noted that we have new scripture readers and ushers at our worship services.

Pastor Becky reported that “The Chosen” Lenten Bible Study started this past Sunday. There were 33 people in attendance. They offered two soups. Everything is going great.

***EEE Embrace:***

Sarah Taylor advised us of the following:

- The Youth schedule is set through June.
- The Easter Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, from 11am-1pm.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday-Friday, June 13-17, 5:30-8:30pm.
- The Children and Youth will have an opportunity to learn some music from Angela Navarro and possibly sing during Easter Sunday worship.
- Youth Confirmation Classes are going well, with only three classes left. The three confirmands and their mentors are all getting some good out of the program. Confirmation Sunday and Youth Sunday will both be held on May 1.

At the Parents Meeting on Sunday, February 13, and at the Youth Gathering right after that, Sarah informed them that she had made the decision to move to Kentucky. She said the emotions ranged from crying, to anger, to one kid breaking the tension with humor – a mixed bag of sharing and reactions – but all were ultimately very supportive of Sarah’s decision.

***EEE Engage:***

**MRE STEAM BBQ:** Pastor Mike reported that Myakka River Elementary’s STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) night is on Thursday, March 10. They asked us to prepare BBQ meals for 500 people. We need to ask for volunteers who should go over there at 4:30pm.

Ash Wednesday is scheduled on March 2 next week. Ashes-To-Go and free coffee will be held from 7-9am, and the traditional service will be held at 6pm.

Fish Fry: PB&J's (Pastor Becky & Jack's) Fish Fry will be held on Fridays from March 4 thru April 15, from 3-6pm. Pastor Becky said all proceeds (after expenses) will go into Ministries of the church.

Holy Thursday service with communion will be held on April 14 at 2pm.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held on April 15 at 7:00pm, right after the Friday Fish Fry. [After the meeting, Pastor Mike changed the starting time from 6:30pm to 7pm.]

Easter Sunrise Service will start at 6:45am on April 17. Traditional Easter services will be held at 8am and 11am, and the contemporary Easter service at 9:30am.

First Monday Supper: Anne Devilbiss said that with Dawn Tesauro out, she (or someone else) needs to be able to access the Reservation System which is used for the First Monday Supper. She said that total donations for the February 7 dinner were \$637 and total expenses were \$416. Our dining-in dinners started last month, and most ate and left right away. This month, however, Anne said they tended to stay and linger.

Boy Scouts: Pastor Mike said their charter has been extended through June. Ken Priest suggested that when future Eagle Scout projects are completed, that plans for maintenance (if needed) also be established.

Penny Sunday for January 16 (Tornado Day) brought in donations of \$186. Penny Sunday donations from February 20 totaled over \$435. Both of these amounts will go for the Youth Mission Fund.

Pig Pickin' & Cookie Dash: John Furtado said he saw figures of \$7,911 for gross income from the Pig Pickin' on February 11, and \$1,377 received from the Cookie Dash. The net totals have yet to be recorded.

Family March Movie Night will be outside at 7pm on March 25. The movie is "Journey to the Center of the Earth" starring Brendan Fraser.

Team Cuba: John McGuire reported that he recently spoke with Dan Christopherson about the money we gave him in October of 2020. That money was earmarked for costs for the shipping containers and support funds for our sister churches in Nicaro and Frank Pais. Dan stated that we were not being charged for shipping cost/customs costs, due to the lengthy delay of delivery. Of the \$2,100 he had for Nicaro, about \$1,215 was delivered in January. Of the \$4,980 he had for Frank Pais, about \$2,115 was delivered in January. With the limits that are imposed, he has to divide actual delivery among all our sister churches. As a result, he still has the balance of those totals in his possession. With regard to the items which we sent in the cargo containers, Cuban Customs went through everything and then repackaged them differently. As a result, we do not know exactly what items were received by each church. We do know, however, that the

bicycles and the water systems that were sent did arrive at the proper churches. Pastor Becky said there are no limitations on the money that can be sent to Cuba, that \$12,000 was received by the Holguin District yesterday. It was sent via the Florida Conference treasurer, to the Cuba Conference treasurer, and then distributed to the churches in the form of debit cards. Those who were on Team Cuba said they needed to have a meeting to discuss the situation further.

**Expansion Team:** Joan reported that we should hear from Alex tomorrow (2/23/22), and renderings (probably a video) should be ready by Wednesday 3/2/22. When it is received, it will be made available for all to view.

**Non-Agenda Item, Kitchen Pass-Thru Window.** It has been suggested by several volunteers who work in the kitchen that the pass-thru window between the kitchen and the serving room (#103) be relocated. It should be moved to the non-weightbearing wall between #103 and the sanctuary, placed between the two doors. First, almost nothing is currently passed through the window. The kitchen could be expanded to include the #103 space. Secondly, going back to the original plans for GCUMC, our sanctuary area was always intended to be more of a fellowship hall. When several people enter #103, they are always bumping into each other because of the small space. If the pass-thru window is moved, it will make it much easier to serve meals out of the expanded kitchen. Third, there is a psychological component that says we are starting to move in a new way, thinking about the building program, which would allow our current sanctuary a fellowship hall. The cost to move the window should be minimal, especially since it is a non-weightbearing wall. Everything in the current location (counter and drawers) can be moved and used in the new location. The current pass-thru could remain in place or even be enlarged to allow for easier access between the kitchen and #103. The space would still be available as a meeting room, even though it is already slowly becoming an extension of the kitchen. This project, including costs and materials and drawings, will be an agenda item next month.

**Adjournment.** The next Leadership Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with a prayer by Pastor Mike.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson  
Recording Secretary