

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

March 21, 2022 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Joan Priest (Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Doreen Alvarez, Sue Betz, Jim Brown, Anne Devilbiss, Dave Devilbiss, John Furtado, Richard Jacoby, Carol McGuire, John McGuire, Ken Priest, Jeanne Shrout, Rick Starck, Sarah Taylor, Dawn Tesauro, Dana Hanson

Opening Comments: The meeting was opened with prayer by Joan Priest.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of any needed corrections to the minutes of the 2/22/2022 meeting.

Staff Parish Relations:

Youth Director: Doreen Alvarez advised that SPR held a meeting last week. Sarah Taylor reviewed the Youth Director job description and made some suggestions for a few things that need to be tweaked. The Youth Ministry Institute, the organization which helped us hire Sarah and will be helping us to find her replacement, will be paid this week. YMI does the initial vetting, then finds and recommends individuals who would be a good fit with GCUMC. We take over from there with reviewing and interviewing.

Parsonage Walk-Thru: Doreen needs to get together with Jim Brown and arrange for a parsonage walk-thru. This needs to be done yearly and an appropriate report prepared.

Children's Director: Doreen noticed that Holly Tozer's job description has not been reviewed or updated since 2016. They will ask her to review it and make recommendations.

Finance:

Financial Status: John Furtado advised that our February spendable income was \$43,981, and including January spendable income, the total is \$109,579. However, of the \$109,579, the amount of \$40,620 represents annual or pre-pledge amounts (i.e., one-time payments instead of giving throughout the year). The amount of \$15,581 remains in our PPP loan account. The February-end balance in the Reserve Fund is \$42,568.

Food Events: John noted that the gross income received from the Pig Pickin', Arts & Crafts, and Cookie Dash weekend was \$9,196, with the net amount being \$5,233. After the Leadership Board meeting, additional information was learned. The church gave 80 Pig Pickin' meals to Myakka River Elementary teachers and staff. Of the 80 meals, 39 were paid for by members of our congregation, and \$585 (39 x \$15/meal) is included in the \$9,196 figure. The other 41 meals (a value of \$615) are ministry paid for by our church.

With regard to the STEAM night at Myakka River Elementary, the church provided free meals to the participants that evening, and also handed out bags of pork to families who wanted them. A

value of around \$400 is assigned to this pork (both meals and bags) and is a ministry paid for by our church.

Rick reminded us that in the past, we have given an amount of Pig Pickin' proceeds to the Boy Scouts to acknowledge their help with many things, but especially for breaking down and setting up the sanctuary when needed. In addition, he noted that the Boy and Girls Club juggled their schedule to accommodate our Pig Pickin' weekend.

After discussion, it was agreed that the proceeds from the weekend should be distributed as follows:

- \$500 (about 10%) to Boy Scout Troop 776
- \$500 (about 10%) to the Boys & Girls Club
- \$500 (about 10%) to the church to cover expenses (the event tithe)
- Balance of \$3,733 as seed money for future food events

Dawn Tesauro advised that the "Food Event" account includes amounts for all food events except the First Monday Supper, which is kept separate. The gross amount received from the Friday Fish Fry since March 4 is \$7,925.

Audit of Books: We received our final report from CPA Jen Diehl (our auditor who is located in Texas, but is moving to North Carolina). She audited the church's books, but not the books of the Men's Group or Crafty Ladies. The bottom line is that she found GCUMC books to be in good order and following generally accepted accounting principles.

Financial Peace University: John presented information to all three services on Dave Ramsey's upcoming Financial Peace University. We will be offering it on Mondays from 6:30 to around 8:30, starting May 2. There are nine sessions, but with Memorial Day, July 4th, and a Monday conflict day with Vacation Bible School, the "every Monday" schedule will have to be adjusted. Publicity has already been submitted to area newspapers about the program. We have indicated a deadline of April 13 to register for FPU to allow time to obtain the necessary materials.

Stewardship Pledge Cards: The last time John checked for completed pledge cards, he thought about 29 had been turned in.

Forwarding Designated Funds: Ken Priest said he was recently asked about the time between receipt of a donor's designated gift, and the forwarding of that gift to the organization. Accounts that people expressed concern over were those which we *know* the organization needs the funds, such as Englewood Helping Hand, UMCOR, and Children's Home. Dawn advised that amounts donated for UMCOR and Children's Home are sent to Conference monthly. She sends a check to other organizations when a significant amount of money is in an account. The bottom line is that there is no time frame for forwarding; it is based on necessity and amount.

Endowments: Rick Starck recently made a short presentation to the congregation. He said there was a sizable number of people who indicated they had Wills, but when asked if they

knew whether the Wills would be accepted in Florida, the number of hands dropped. As a result, he feels an informational meeting would be beneficial. Rick met an individual who is on an Endowment Committee in a northern Lutheran Church. This man had two ideas for increasing endowments, both of which his church had used successfully.

The first idea involves a sit-down dinner for anyone who is interested. Speakers (such as attorneys, financial advisors, etc.) are brought in to discuss the various avenues for donating. The second idea involves the church paying for any member to revise or prepare a basic Will. The hope is that by the church paying for the Will, the member would be inclined to include the church in the revised Will.

Rick explained that most endowments include a provision that allows using only the interest, earnings, or appreciation of the fund -- principal is not touched. However, for things such as a capital campaign, it is known that principal will eventually be used to construct a new building. By placing the funds in an endowment-type account, higher rates of return can be achieved.

Trustees:

Monthly Report: Jim Brown delivered an extensive Trustee report. It is reproduced at the end of these minutes. With regard to the references to pine needles in the gutters and close to the portables as of 2/25/22, Ken Priest noted that since that time, all pine needles have been removed from the gutters and cleared away from the portables. 😊 ***Thanks to Ken Priest and Fred Boyer!!!***

Janitorial Services: Richard Jacoby has experience with contracts for janitorial services, so he is making some revisions to the current contract with Lindsey Cleaning, LLC. Richard noted that the current contract states that the church is responsible for all chemicals, supplies, and equipment. However, although the church may be purchasing some things, we are not purchasing others. Richard said that the church should be cleaned with hospital-grade cleaners, not "supermarket" cleaners. In addition, a commercial-grade vacuum cleaner should be used. The old heavy-duty vacuum we used to have fell apart and was thrown away. They will check into obtaining a new vacuum, as well as appropriate cleaning supplies.

Roof: They still need to contact Dennis Guzik about leads of companies who might be interested in our roof project.

Kitchen Ovens/Stoves: Dave Devilbiss said they are working on a "kitchen operations manual." Dave met with a woman from the Boy Scouts about the proper way of putting the stove back together, to avoid the small "explosion" that took place a few weeks ago after their Pancake Breakfast. One of the ovens is on its second repair, with one element previously replaced now not working again. Dave was told it has something to do with the control valves which are to be worked on tomorrow. Dave opined that the stoves were purchased in 2019, and one has been a pain the whole time. However, even though they were designated as "professional," they are getting a lot more use than before. The Boys & Girls Club is cooking almost every day, and GCUMC is contributing with weekly Fish Fries and First Monday Suppers.

Window Cleaning: **Thank you, Steve Senchuk!** You did a marvelous job of cleaning all the mirrors and windows – both inside & out, and even the little windows in the doors! They are so nice & clean & see-thru!!!

Painting the Outside: Dave mentioned that the paint is flaking off the areas around the windows on the south wall of the building (across from the portables). The screens are also in bad shape. Dave felt the church should be painted in the not too distant future. John Furtado noted that it has been several years since the outside walls were painted. [After the meeting, Dana Hanson found a reference to painting the outside walls in the April 2011 Church Council minutes: “On Saturday May 14 at 8:00am, Painting Day will be held to paint the outside of the church. Volunteers need to bring nothing but themselves and old clothes, and possibly something to drink and a drop cloth if they have one.”]

Outside Cracks: Ken said that he recently caulked the outside wall close to the double-glass doors that lead to the office. This was needed to stop water from getting inside the walls. The cracking was probably due to the building settling. It is possible there are other areas of the church that need this same type of repair.

Kitchen Pass-Thru Window: Dave said it would cost around \$1,000 to move the pass-thru area from its current location to between the two doors on the wall in #103. The trustees have determined that no pass-thru should remain in its current location; that wall will be removed, opening up the whole area. A new “covering” will be placed in the new pass-thru area. Joan noted that, as it relates to our expansion plans, the architect had already proposed that the kitchen be enlarged to include #103. Pastor Mike added that we will still be able to hold meetings in #103. *All agreed that the pass-thru window be moved. It’s a GO!*

Kitchen Equipment: Dave informed the group that we recently purchased a commercial fryer and a 36-inch griddle for hotdogs & hamburgers. **Thank you to the donors of the \$900 that was used!**

EEE Experience:

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

	8:00am	9:30am	11:00am
In-Person	61	139	74
Online viewings	98	147	87

The number of individuals who used the drive-thru on Ash Wednesday was 53, and 70+ attended the evening service. There have been 24 to 32 individuals attending the Sunday evening soup-and-The-Chosen which is led by Pastor Becky Stephenson. Four new people have started attending the Wednesday Midweek Boost which is led by Pastor Mike.

9:30 Worship: It was mentioned that some people who attend this service (especially those who have even a slight hearing problem) have difficulty hearing Pastor Mike over the music that is played during his prayer and announcements. All they hear is background noise, and cannot understand what Pastor Mike is saying.

Audio-Visual Needs: The Praise Team had a zoom meeting to discuss technology that would help all three worship services. They have created a list of needed items. They plan to inform the congregation of what is needed prior to arranging for a fundraiser. A couple fundraising ideas they had included a Bake Sale Auction and a Karaoke Night.

With regard to video devices, Doreen advised that Englewood UMC uses multiple iPads placed around their sanctuary to provide different angles and closeness in video recording – as opposed to the one camera that we use. Presumably, there are programs for controlling the multiple iPad video recordings. The sound would be controlled by the computer and mic system. The plan is to contact EUMC to find out how they do it.

EEE Embrace:

Sarah Taylor advised us of several things:

- The Easter Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 9.
- This week's movie night (March 25) was cancelled because flyers did not get through the system in time to be passed out at Myakka River Elementary.
- Youth Confirmation is going well. There is only one more class, on April 2, when they will discuss Methodist history and traditions.
- The Youth fundraisers for their mission trip went well. They netted \$700-\$800 from the Krispy Kreme donut and necklace sales.
- The Youth trivia night, also a mission trip fundraiser, will be held on May 15. The youth will be actively recruiting teams soon. It is planned that each youth going on the trip will have five adults on their team, but more teams are welcome.

EEE Engage:

STEAM Night: Pastor Mike informed us that in our area, Myakka River Elementary School has one of the highest numbers of families who have an insufficient amount of food. He said that when bags of BBQ were offered at the end of the STEAM night (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math), many families received them. One woman even said that the contents would cover them for a couple of meals.

Reading Buddies: Pastor Mike advised that there were not a lot of volunteers on our end for this program with the Boys & Girls Club. We will, however, try buddying-up again through Big Brothers/Big Sisters with Myakka River Elementary kids.

Boy Scouts: Larry Davis has moved from the area – yes, it happened very quickly. Our two new Boy Scout contacts are Kristie Coleman and Michelle Dragon. Michelle has taken over

many of the things that Larry used to do. The United Methodist charter with the Boy Scouts is in place through June. They have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, April 2.

Team Cuba: John McGuire reported that they had a meeting on Wednesday. Between September 2021 through January 2022, over \$4,600 was sent to the Nicaro church, over \$8,600 was sent to Frank Pais, and \$1,500 went to the Holguin Norte District. These amounts were to cover salaries for pastors and missionaries, as well as critical needs of the churches – including taking food packages out to the communities and feeding people at the church. There is currently over \$14,000 in the Team Cuba funds right now. At their meeting, Pastor Becky mentioned that Superintendent Al (in Cuba) was looking for care packages to be used only by the pastors and their families in Holguin Norte. Everything from the shipping containers has been distributed to their parishioners. Team Cuba agreed to a \$2,100 commitment for this purpose, which will be sent this week along with another \$2,100 from an anonymous donor.

The team also discussed the need for a parsonage at Frank Pais because the church has expanded so much. The pastors' quarters (about 800 square feet) have become a part of their sanctuary, and they share their bathroom with the church. The adjacent property has been for sale for a while, and they have been considering a possible purchase of it as the parsonage. Although the initial asking price of \$10,000 was considered too high, it dropped to \$8,000, and then dropped to \$6,000 – and then the owner pulled it off the market. Pastor Siubel was then thinking about using some of the funds to renovate and expand the current parsonage.

Joan advised that the Frank Pais Church has a fantastic program for kids, and the Nicaro Church has a great elderly shut-in program. There is a lot of growth in both churches. There are three missionary churches being started through Nicaro and five through Frank Pais.

First Monday Supper: Anne Devilbiss advised that there were 178 individuals who attended the March 7 supper, 12 dine-in and 166 drive-thru. Although the dinners are free, donations totaled \$678. Anne knows that some of the people who get dinners do not have any money to give, and others give more than their "share." She reminded us that this ministry was never intended to be a "money maker." People might not come through our doors on Sundays, but we are serving a need in the community with them attending our dinners. Thankfully, donations do cover expenses.

Penny Sunday: Since we are doing a two-month food drive for veterans, it was decided to donate Penny Sunday amounts to Englewood Helping Hand. Yesterday, Penny Sunday brought in \$497 which will be forwarded to EHH.

PB&J's Friday Fish Fry: Anne said that they really could use help cleaning up the kitchen after the fish fry is done. We might want to set up "teams" like we have for the First Monday Supper: a setup & prep team for Thursday evening; a serving team on Fridays; and a cleanup and reset team late Fridays and on Saturdays. Information from our recent Friday dinners is as follows:

March 4

- 159 total = 89 dine in + 70 drive-thru
- Total dinner donations were \$2,685
- Total additional donations were at least \$54

March 11

- 200+ total = 98 dine in (5 were kids) + 102 drive-thru
- Total dinner donations were \$2,945
- Total additional donations were \$71

March 18

- 144 total = 77 dine in (8 were kids) + 67 drive-thru
- Total dinner donations were \$2,035
- Total additional donations were \$40

Expansion Team: Joan said the team met today. They have some initial pictures of proposed new structures, but not all of them. Once all the pictures & renderings are received, they will be shared.

Adjournment: Since the next scheduled meeting would be the day after Easter, it was decided that the next Leadership Board meeting will be held a week early, on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm with a prayer by Pastor Mike. Dawn noted that financial reports might not be done by then, because the bank is revising their online program. She does not know what, if anything, she will be able to access.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary

TRUSTEE REPORT

On Friday, 25 February, an inspection for irregularities was performed on the exterior of the four outbuilding classrooms. Overall, the buildings are in fair condition. However, there is an occurrence of rot of the T-111 siding around the entry doors and some lower portions of the siding. This condition is spotty here and there on all units. Long term usage requires repair; short term usage requires regular, yearly inspections.

The rear exit deck of Unit A needs new decking and steps, along with the replacement of the center stair horse. The deck between Unit A and Unit B should be refastened with exterior deck type screws of sufficient length to tightly fasten loosened decking. A similar condition exists on all decks, indicating a general refastening of all loosened decking as stated above. The ramp leading up along Unit B needs refastening along with bracing. The inside ramp deck joist has become free of its anchor to the main deck head joist. The ramp joist needs to be reattached to the main deck head joist, or firmly braced, as it is presently 1½ inches below the deck and is spongy. This should be investigated further and properly repaired before it becomes worse. The priority of repair should be the rear steps and landing of Unit A and the ramp connection at Unit B. Then, or at the same time, the refastening of the loosened deck planks of all units. The condition of the roof shingles was not investigated. Where roof gutters exist, all were full of pine needles and should be cleared.

The material cost for replacing the exit landing and steps on Unit A and refastening the other deck planks is approximately \$500.

On walking about the campus, it was observed that 24 chairs were stacked outside, and 4 tables were leaned against, the rear of Unit A. Inquiring, we found they belong to the Boys & Girls Club. They indicated that they would remove the said tables and chairs. Also, to the rear of Units A, B, & C are piles of pine needles very close to the buildings. They should be removed as they are a fire hazard.

On the concrete pad outside the kitchen door are to be found custodial buckets, floor mops, a 5gallon container of cleaning chemicals, and other sundries. Is there a better place to store this equipment than out in the elements by the kitchen door, looking like a junk yard? Our understanding is that this is our equipment. In the same area, there is a plastic, deep sink laying on its side. Inquiring, it also belongs to the Boys & Girls Club. A request was made to have it removed as soon as possible if not being used.

Jim Brown
Richard Jacoby