

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

May 17, 2022 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Joan Priest (Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Sue Betz, Jim Brown, Anne Devilbiss, Dave Devilbiss, Richard Jacoby, Carol McGuire, John McGuire, Ken Priest, Jeanne Shrout, Pastor Becky Stephenson, Dawn Tesauro, Dana Hanson

OPENING COMMENTS:

The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by Pastor Mike. Ephesians 2:10 states, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ecclesiastes 4:9 states, "Two are better than one," because they get more done when they work together. As we go through life, we need to share our work and our burdens with others. We need other people, just as they need us. As we share our work with others of faith, we will discover that we are able to do more for the glory of God.

Joan Priest has been listening to Horizon webinars and they have suggested that actual thank you notes be written to individuals who have gone above and beyond in service, time, financial giving, and/or other areas on behalf of the church. If it relates to financial giving, it may be necessary that only a few individuals be allowed to send such a note. Some larger churches have personnel positions just for this purpose. It is vital to recognize people, and we should try to start this program soon. It was mentioned that Bonnie Wollmacher and Pat Marchert used to do things similar to this, but they have both passed on to be with our Lord.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of any needed corrections to the minutes of the 3/21/2022 meeting. There was no meeting in April.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

In the absence of Doreen Alvarez, Pastor Mike advised that SPR is having a meeting this coming Saturday to do clergy evaluation.

Regarding the search for a Youth Director, Youth Ministry Institute is continuing to work on our behalf. Information on our church has been disseminated to area organizations. SPR is also working on a recognition day for Sarah, keeping in mind that the youth will be on their mission trip from June 25 through July 2.

The parsonage walk-through is scheduled for June 3.

FINANCE

Financial Status: Ken Priest reported that March and April 2022 spendable income totaled \$29,850 and \$57,174, respectively. These amounts included annual offerings of \$10,300. Through April, annual offerings have amounted to \$50,920. Additionally, in April, we received an offering of \$3,000 for the reserve fund. Thus, we need to spend wisely as these annual

offerings (and more annual offerings that are expected later this year) need to stretch throughout the year. Other items mentioned include the following:

- Our current spending rate through April is 95.7% of the budgeted amount.
- Our Reserve Fund balance was \$47,039 as of 4/30/2022.
- Our PPP loan balance remains at \$15,581 as of 4/30/2022.
- The Pig Pickin', cookie dash, and arts & crafts netted \$5,223.
- Our Friday Fish Fries gross income was \$17,304 and Pastor Becky reported that the net income was around \$14,500.
- Through April, our church has donated \$2,616 to UMCOR in support of Ukraine.

Pledge Cards: Ken advised that John Furtado again reviewed the numbers reflected on pledge cards that were received. John's review indicated that 37 families pledged the amount of \$134,420. This represents about 27% of our current annual budget.

Youth Ministry Institute: The YMI is working on hiring a replacement for Sarah Taylor. The initial fee for YMI is \$6,750, half of which will come from the PPP loan and half from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This will leave a balance of \$3,375 payable to YMI.

Food Event Accounts: Because of confusion in tracking numbers, Dawn Tesauro has split up the Dinner Fund into the following accounts:

- Thanksgiving Fund has a seed money balance of \$2,733.
- Pig Pickin' Fund has a seed money balance of \$2,358.
- First Monday Supper Fund has a balance of \$4,037.
- Food Events Fund (other than the above three) has a seed money balance of \$1,724.

Pig Pickin' Weekend Proceeds & Boy Scouts: At our last meeting, it had been decided to give, out of the Pig Pickin' weekend proceeds, \$500 to the Boy Scouts and \$500 to the Boys & Girls Club. The remaining balance of \$3,733 was put back into the PPP loan account.

Since that meeting, Joan talked with Michelle Dragon, who further talked with Kristie Coleman. These two ladies are taking the lead with Boy Scout Troop 776 after Larry Davis' move out of the area. They have already paid a \$900 down-payment for their camping trip to Alabama the first week of July, but they still owe \$3,000. They are trying to get another fundraising event set up. They think the gas to and from camp will total \$1,500 to \$1,800. They currently have around \$4,900 in their account. In light of the fact that last year we gave the Boy Scouts \$2,000, Joan proposed that we give them more than \$500 to help with their camp expenses. *After discussion, it was decided that we should give the Boy Scouts the total amount of \$2,000 (over and above any amount paid toward their chartering fee).*

Foundation Account: The higher interest-bearing account (1.75%) we have with the Florida United Methodist Foundation was established with \$75,100 several years ago. In March, Dawn transferred another \$15,000 into that account, which brings the April 30 balance to \$92,012. (This is different from the Expansion Endowment account which is also held by the Foundation in the total amount of \$24,048.)

Memorial Accounts: Several smaller memorial donations were previously placed into the General Memorial account. The balance in that account of \$4,532 was transferred to the General Fund in March.

Facility Upkeep Account: Ken questioned why nothing has been moved recently into the Facility Upkeep account (320.028). It had been decided long ago that \$1,500 (the approximate amount of our prior mortgage payment) would be put into this account if (1) we do not pull from the Reserve Fund, and (2) we have sufficient funds to meet our expenses. These two conditions appear to have been met since November 2021. He pointed out that in the not too distant future we will likely have completed our campus expansion which will require that at least \$1,500 be paid every month toward a new mortgage. After discussion, it was decided that Dawn will review the books going back to last November. For any month where spendable income exceeds expenses, she should place up to \$1,500 in the Facility Upkeep account (320.028). Assuming all six months are available, \$9,000 should be transferred into that account.

Financial Peace University: FPU started on May 2 under the leadership of John Furtado. Due to several holidays and other reasons, the nine-week program will be held on the following dates (absent any further delays): May 2, 9, 23, June 6, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25.

Endowments – Rick Stark recently indicated he will work on the presentation dinner program and revisions of basic Wills program over the summer while he is north. He will present his recommendations to the Leadership Board in the fall after his return. See the 3/21/2022 minutes for a discussion of these programs.

TRUSTEES

Jim Brown said there are many campus needs right now, and addressed the two largest.

Portable Walkways: The ramps and decking around the portables, including all the emergency exit areas, are falling apart. One person has already fallen and been injured while walking on the ramp leading into #A. Jim said a contractor is lined up and should start rebuilding the ramps and decks in about two weeks. The contractor told Jim that the total cost could run \$5,000 for materials and \$15,000 for labor.

Kitchen Stoves: Dave Devilbiss reported that our current professional-grade stoves need to be replaced. Both have been repaired two times already; together they provide us with eight burners. He was told the manufacturer of those stoves does not make long-lasting, reliable equipment. Dave has done some research and found that a 10-burner, commercial-grade, Vulcan stove (same manufacturer as our previous stove) will cost just under \$6,000 (with free shipping). After June 1st, the price will go up about \$830. He said it is gas burner/gas oven (not gas burner/electric oven). Dave mentioned the older stove had eleven pilot lights, and the newer models are much more efficient. Anne Devilbiss added that purchasing an electric oven will jump the price considerably. After the meeting, Dawn looked at FPL expenses to see what the differences were when we went from a gas/gas stove to gas/electric stove a few years ago:

| YEAR | ELECTRICITY | GAS |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 2018 | 9,968.19 | 2,183.54 |
| 2019 | 10,225.39 | 2,357.48 |
| 2020 | 9,320.85 | 95.00 |
| 2021 | 9,695.81 | 0.00 |
| 2022 (thru April) | 4,858.83 | 71.35* |

* Dawn believes that this was spent during the Fish Fries to fill the extra tank.

Jim added that they have spoken with Lynn Dorler, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County. Mr. Dorler indicated that the B&GC offered to pay up to \$10,000 – to cover both a new stove and a portion of the deck walkway around the portables. Jim indicated more research was being done prior to deciding which oven/stove to purchase. If they stick with Vulcan, they plan to make a decision prior to prices going up on June 1st.

Pastor Mike pointed out that the B&GC will likely be with us at least 3 years. The B&GC is purchasing land near the intersection of Sunnybrook Blvd. & Willmington Blvd. It is located next to the Sonrise Baptist Church and across the street from the Sheriff's Office. Jim noted that Mr. Dorler also mentioned that there is a lot of new development in our area, including up 776 toward Highway 41. As a result, the B&GC might still be interested in using our facilities, even after their new building is completed.

After the new stove is received, Dave will talk with the appropriate individuals about how to take care of its various features.

Cleaning Contract: Jim and Richard Jacoby have updated the contract with Lindsey Cleaning and forwarded it to the office. They ask that Leadership Board members review it and make any necessary comments.

Exterior & Roof Cleaning: No additional action has been taken.

Pass-Thru Window: This project involves moving the pass-thru from the wall between the kitchen and #103, to the wall between #103 and the sanctuary. Dave said the timing has to be established so as not to interfere with the B&GC activities. Their after-school care program ends on Thursday, May 26. Their summer program starts on Monday, June 6 (8am-5pm), and runs through Friday, August 5(?). They will be closed the week of July 4. In addition, our own Vacation Bible School is scheduled during the evenings from June 13-17.

EEE EXPERIENCE

Attendance: Sue Betz reported that the average attendance for March and April is as follows:

| MARCH | 8:00am | 9:30am | 11:00am |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| In-Person | 64 | 134 | 78 |
| Online viewings | 114 | 189 | 90 |

| APRIL | 8:00am | 9:30am | 11:00am |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| In-Person | 52 | 144 | 88 |
| Online viewings | 116 | 128 | 102 |

After the meeting, Jeanne Shrout provided attendance numbers for Holy Week:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| Mundy Thursday, April 14, 2:00pm | 21 | |
| Good Friday, April 15, 7:00pm | 79 | |
| Easter Sunday, April 17 | | |
| Sunrise 6:45am | 36 | |
| 8:00am | 61 | |
| 9:30am | 200 | |
| 11:00am | 124 | Easter Sunday Total = 421 |

Greeters & Ushers: Sue said that individuals have agreed to be greeters and ushers every Sunday through August and part of September.

Communion: Pastor Mike thanked the individuals who served communion pre-COVID. He added that several of our youth have started serving communion at the 9:30 service every week. And even better – they look forward to it!

Website: Our church’s website is being upgraded by Kathy Mortensen, who is taking over this project from Rick Starck. It is hoped that it will go live in August.

Rick, thanks for all the time you previously spent on our website!

EEE EMBRACE

In the absence of Sarah Taylor, Pastor Mike reported on several items.

- Trivia Night this past Sunday brought in around \$900 for the Youth Mission Trip to Gatlinburg (June 25 thru July 2). Their trip is now fully funded.
- Youth Roller Skating is May 21.
- Sarah will be on vacation from May 23-29.
- Youth Lunch Bunch will be held on Tuesdays, May 31, June 7, 14, and 21.

- Messy Wednesday for both the Youth and Gulf Cove Kidz will be held on Wednesday, June 1.
- A meeting for youth going on the Mission Trip and their parents is scheduled for Sunday, June 5, at 3pm.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday thru Friday, June 13-17, from 5:30-8:30pm. As in previous years, the VBS kids (and their parents and siblings if they wish to stay) will be served a light meal shortly after each evening starts. There are still a few positions that need to be filled. Decoration & set creation days are scheduled for Saturdays June 4 & 11, and Sunday June 12.

John McGuire added that Confirmation & Youth Sunday was phenomenal and all agreed! Mike thanked the youth for handling the full hour for all three services, and he thanked Pastor Becky for taking over Sunday services the week prior.

Pastor Mike said that it is wonderful how much the youth parents are vested in the youth program. During the interim after Sarah leaves and before our next Youth Director starts, several of the youth parents have stepped up and said they will rotate leading the group. In addition, Patty Kalafut, who has been assisting Sarah for several years, has promised to help as much as she can.

EEE ENGAGE

Pastor Mike reported on the following:

- New Men's Group: This new faith-based men's group is in the planning stages. They are thinking about fellowship over a meal at various restaurants around town, with discussions focusing on key issues that men encounter.
- Men Behaving Dadly: This group is being restructured and hopes to start back up soon. It will be held on Wednesdays during Jesus Rocks and the Youth Gathering.
- Teacher's Appreciation Week: The Myakka River Elementary teachers and staff were served breakfast on Monday, May 2.
- Police Appreciation Week: No one stepped forward to lead this project, so we did not participate this year.
- Barn & Craft Sales: These sales were held on April 1 & 2. The Men's Group brought in around \$1,200. The Crafty Ladies brought in around \$1,000.
- Boy Scouts: When Pastor Mike recently spoke with the Boy Scouts, they asked if there were any service projects they could work on around the church over the summer. It was suggested that they consider maintaining projects and Eagle Scout projects that they have already done.

Team Cuba: John McGuire reported that we provided \$2,000 to the Holguin Norte District to send out care packages to the pastors and their families. The amount of \$6,000 was sent to Frank Pais to build an addition onto their church, which has already started. A Cuba meeting was held with Dan Christopherson over Zoom on May 12. Dan reported that procedures are in place to send prescription medications from the Netherlands to Cuba. Dan hopes to make an October planning trip (himself only) prior to taking any groups on a mission trip to Cuba.

First Monday Supper: Anne Devilbiss reported that for April 4, we brought in \$486 in donations, and had 12 dine-in people and 115 drive-thru orders. For May 2, donations were \$524, with 13 dine-in and 135 drive-thru.

Special Collections

- The April Penny Sunday collection was moved from April 17 (Easter) to April 24. A total of \$548.30 was received for VBS.
- The Penny Sunday collection on May 15 brought in \$314.05 for UMCOR Operating Costs.
- UMCOR donations for Ukraine total \$2,616 to date.

PB&J's Friday Fish Fries: The following table reflects approximate numbers of attendees and amounts received through the Friday Fish Fries which were graciously, and deliciously, sponsored by Pastor Becky & Jack Stephenson:

| | 3/4/22 | 3/11/22 | 3/18/22 | 3/25/22 | 4/1/22 | 4/8/22 | 4/15/22 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| # Dine in | 89 | 98 | 77 | 108 | 79 | 91 | 103 |
| # Drive thru | 70 | 102 | 67 | 60 | 52 | 46 | 60 |
| # TOTAL | 159 | 200 | 144 | 168 | 131 | 137 | 163 |
| \$ Dinner | 2,685 | 2,945 | 2,035 | 2,500 | 1,935 | 2,035 | 2,405 |
| \$ Tip | 54 | 71 | 40 | 95 | 180 | 57 | 142 |
| \$ TOTAL | \$2,739 | \$3,016 | \$2,075 | \$2,595 | \$2,115 | \$2,092 | \$2,547 |

EXPANSION TEAM STATUS REPORT

Joan said it had been hoped that a video would be available to show this evening, but the company is currently changing platforms and software. All output is being migrated over to their new systems. As a result, our video is delayed. Hopefully, next month we can see a walkthrough of the proposed, new building. As before, everything is still preliminary and subject to change.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The next two Leadership Board meetings will each be postponed one day. They will be held on Tuesday, June 21, and Tuesday, July 19, at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm with a devotion and prayer by Ken.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary