

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Leadership Board Meeting

June 21, 2022 – 7:00pm

Attendees:

Joan Priest (Chair), Pastor Mike Weaver, Doreen Alvarez, Anne Devilbiss, Beverly Fonder, John Furtado, Richard Jacoby, Carol McGuire, John McGuire, Ken Priest, Jeanne Shrout, Sarah Taylor, Dana Hanson

BOARD ITEMS

Pastor Mike delivered our opening prayer.

He then addressed Sarah Taylor, our Youth Director. This is her last meeting with us before she moves to Kentucky. He told her that what she has done for and with our youth group is amazing. Her words and her actions have affected many. She will be missed a lot.

Florida Annual Conference was held June 9-11 in Lakeland. This year's theme was "Rebuilding the Church, Re-memorizing the Body: Creating a Spiritual Home for All." Pastor Mike said it was an intense meeting, with some hostility, but it ended well. Doreen Alvarez mentioned some of the topics addressed:

- There were two bishop's offerings: Encounter with Christ in Latin America and Caribbean; and Technology Grants for Rural and Small Membership Churches.
- Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin was recognized as the Florida Conference Episcopal Nominee. She can now be nominated as a Bishop in the United Methodist Church. Although we have had several women rise to the level of Bishop, Sharon is the first woman of color as an episcopal nominee from the Florida Conference.
- The 2023 budget of a little over \$16 million was approved for the whole conference, which is more than \$187,000 less than the 2022 budget. Our church and 415 others gave 100% of their apportionments during 2021. Conference expenses were down \$425,000 during 2021 when compared to 2020. The Cabinet approved \$2.3 million in direct grants to local churches.
- During the Laity Session, it was pointed out that during the early days of our church, the laity really carried the burden. Pastors were itinerant and may have been present only once every couple of months. The session focused on purpose, presence, partnership, and passion.
- During licensing and ordination services, 16 people were licensed as local pastors, 2 were ordained as deacons, and 10 were ordained as elders. Tamara Isidore was the first Haitian woman to be ordained in the Florida Conference.
- Quite a few churches celebrated milestones: 4 churches have been in existence for 200 years, 3 for 150 years, 2 for 125 years, 7 for 100 years, 1 for 75 years, 2 for 50 years, and 1 for 25 years.
- There was 1 church approved for discontinuance (closing a church, usually with less than 50 attendees), and 14 churches which were approved for disaffiliation (no longer wanting to be part of the UMC). Doreen pointed out that what has been happening is

that the facilities of *discontinued* churches have been absorbed by nearby churches, which have turned them into Fresh Expressions. The Book of Discipline ¶ 2553 covers procedures required to become *disaffiliated*.

- The next Florida Annual Conference will be held June 8-10, 2023, in Lakeland. The next world-wide, General Conference will be held in 2024.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: The recording secretary was not notified of any needed corrections to the minutes of the 5/17/2022 meeting.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Staff Evaluations: Doreen reported that it is time for the annual staff evaluations. The self-evaluation forms have been sent to all staff members. Once they are completed, meetings will be held.

Youth Ministry Institute: Pastor Mike advised that YMI has already found two potential candidates to fill the Youth Director vacancy after Sarah leaves. Interviews will be held in due course. In addition, Samantha Kipfinger is on the deacon track, but has agreed to fill in for Sarah during July and August on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Parsonage Walk-Thru: This is completed with necessary actions noted. It was determined that quarterly gutter-cleaning needs to be done because of the pine trees in the area, and more than just mowing needs to be done with the lawn.

FINANCE

May Report: John Furtado reported that May income totaled \$34,079, while expenses totaled \$42,595. The amount of \$7,600 out of the \$34,079 was designated as annual donations, meaning that we should not expect those donors to give anything more through the next 12 months. There is \$14,081 remaining in the PPP loan, and \$47,379 in our Reserve Fund. He thinks we will need to pull from these funds to pay for all the work that is being done on the portables. (At the end of May, there was \$21,932 in the Trustee Fund, and \$14,867 in the Facility Upkeep account.)

Financial Peace University: John said that the fifth session of FPU was held on June 20. They are scheduled to finish July 18. He said two individuals who do not attend GCUMC have contacted him about holding sessions this fall. He plans to advertise FPU as has been done in the past.

TRUSTEES

In General: Richard Jacoby reported that there were no serious issues to his knowledge, except he needs to locate an electrician who can diagnose and fix the problem with our outside, electric marquee.

Cleaning Contract: With regard to the proposed revisions to the contract with the cleaning company, a discussion ensued with regard to how in-depth the contract should be worded. It was ultimately felt that it should be worded more generally, with fewer detailed instructions, so as to avoid any issues of independent contractor versus employee. One specific change needed, however, is on page 2, #7: Oak's Cove should be removed as a location to be serviced, since the second floor is rented out, and the lower floor is cleaned by the Crafty Ladies.

Richard indicated that he believes Lindsey Cleaning might want to end the contract to clean the church. The individuals who perform the work are in the same extended family, with no outside employees. Their residential business as a whole has grown, and unfortunately some of the family members have had some major health concerns. Richard or Jim Brown will discuss the situation with them.

Should Lindsey Cleaning leave, it will be necessary that the church find another cleaning company. Pastor Mike said he will contact some other area churches to find out what cleaning company they use. Richard pointed out that other specific jobs that need to be considered include the occasional stripping of the floors, cleaning the carpets possibly monthly, and the difficulty in cleaning our current kitchen floor. It was mentioned that we might need to speak with the Boys & Girls Club about the cleaning that they should be doing.

Exterior and Roof Cleaning: This is probably something that we will address when a new mortgage is obtained for the overall expansion.

New Stoves, Bus Parking, Portable Walkways: A special **thank you** goes to the Boys & Girls Club. They recently gave us \$7,000 to help pay for the new stoves and another \$5,000 to help pay for their bus parking pad and repairs to the portable walkways! Work on the walkways around the portables has started. They will reconstruct the Closet of Hope back entrance for ingress and egress before working on the deck and ramp to that building. The new stoves and ovens are installed and working properly.

Kitchen Pass-Thru Window: Work on this project has not yet started. The trustees have decided, however, to build the new pass-thru in the wall between #103 and the sanctuary, and see how it goes before doing anything with the wall between #103 and the kitchen. Since the Boys & Girls Club is not meeting during the week of July 4th, it is tentatively planned to do this project at this time.

Thank You: Anne Devilbiss informed the Board that Dave Devilbiss is stepping away from campus care to focus exclusively on food events. **Thanks, Dave, for all your trustee time, but thanks also for providing your excellent chef abilities!**

EEE EXPERIENCE

John Furtado reported that we have no online data for Youth Sunday or for May 22 with regard to attendance or viewing. Not including that information, the averages for May are as follows:

	8:00am	9:30am	11:00am
In-Person	47	115	59
Online viewings	110	121	97

EEE EMBRACE

For her last report to the Leadership Board, Sarah said there are not a lot of upcoming events scheduled. She and Pastor Mike were scheduled to meet with Samantha Kipfinger the next day to hand over lesson plans. Samantha has already been vetted by the Port Charlotte UMC where she was an intern for a couple of years. Patty Kalafut has indicated a desire to continue with the Youth Lunch Bunch from 12-3pm on Tuesdays through July. Patty is also approved to drive the church van.

The Youth are leaving Saturday morning (June 25) for their mission trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee. They will return on Saturday, July 2. Their mission will involve doing things such as light construction, yard work, painting, and dry wall. There are seven youth going, and four adults (Sarah, Patty, Kelly Weaver, and Dave Crandall).

A celebration of Sarah's time with us will be held on Sunday, July 3, between 10:30 and 11:00am. We wish Sarah the best of luck in her next position! We know she will be as successful in Kentucky as she was here at GCUMC!

EEE ENGAGE

Vacation Bible School was held from June 13-17, and Pastor Mike said it was phenomenal! VBS is one of our largest community outreaches. The majority of the children who attend are initially reached through either the school system or the Boys and Girls Club. Of the 71 kids who formally registered, 37 of them were not currently affiliated with a church. The largest number of kids who attended on any given night was 57. Doreen added that was the highest number since we started holding VBS in 2002.

Dana added that this year's VBS mission was the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Total donations brought in by the kids was \$402. Joan said that one young boy donated all his Easter money toward this mission for other children.

Pastor Mike told us that one stepmom said that our VBS program was the only religious education her stepson has had so far in his short life. And even better, the only thing he wanted to talk about that week was VBS! Mike said that that young boy was not the exception.

First Monday Supper: Anne Devilbiss reported that on June 6, 148 people attended (10 dine in and 138 drive-thru), with total donations of \$604. To avoid the Fourth of July, our July dinner will be postponed one week, to July 11. Anne said that there are already 48 meals reserved for that day. All agreed it is a great ministry!

Meal Chairs: Anne also brought up the need to obtain more chairs which can be used for meal events. She noted the upholstery chairs are extremely difficult to keep clean, in addition to being hard to arrange around a table because of their width and weight. She suggested padded, folding chairs be purchased or more sled chairs, both of which are easy to clean. She believed folding chairs could be purchased through Sam's Club for about \$25-\$30 each versus the sled chairs which she thought cost about \$60 each.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Pastor Mike said he hopes that this year we will offer both drive-thru and eat-in.

Penny Sunday was originally scheduled for June 19, but because that day was both VBS Sunday and Father's Day, it is being postponed to June 26.

Team Cuba: John McGuire advised that the team has decided to make quarterly distributions to the churches instead of annual distributions. We have already sent some support to the churches in January and March this year. For our two sister churches in Nicaro and Frank Pais, the annual total is \$12,000, or about \$3,000 each quarter. We are making the distributions through the UMC Global Missions Office, with the funds being transferred from there to UMC Canada, and then to Cuba. The transfer fee is about 5%, and the process takes about a month to complete.

Joan said that on one Sunday, it would be nice if John could make a short presentation regarding Cuba and Pastor Becky Stephenson could make a short presentation about Africa. It was suggested that this presentation be made on July 17.

EXPANSION TEAM STATUS REPORT

A short video was shown of a walk-thru of the proposed facility expansion. Joan said many changes will be made before anything is finalized. Everyone was excited about what they saw. Joan said they hope that construction can start in about five years.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

As part of our closing prayer by Pastor Mike, hands were laid on Sarah, thanking God for bringing her into our lives and for the spiritual influence she has had on our youth.

Our next Leadership Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 7:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary