

Minutes, June 21, 2016 LB Meeting

New Town United Methodist Church

Present:

Board:

Gary Allen, Chair

Carl Timmer, Vice-Chair

Cameron Boone, Secretary

Rick Machamer, Treasurer

John Lohr

Mark Matney

Pam Klepec

Peg Williams

Christine Hernandez

MLT:

Pastor Mike Derflinger

ED Jeff Koob

Devotional read by Mike after meeting is called to order at 7pm following a time of prayer in the sanctuary.

Annual Conference Report from Tom Hassler: 2 years from now, annual conference will be in Hampton. Tom encourages us to attend, as well as anyone else who can in the congregation, even if we are not delegates. Marie Allen was ordained as a deacon. Mike Guminsky will be ordained next year, and New Town should be present to support him. Tom Berlin, an active voice at this year's conference, lead the charge at General Conference to get the Bishops to lead the church. He distributed a diagram describing how people view sexuality in the church. He thinks the commission is the last best hope for compromise in keeping the church together. 97% of the global funding for the global UMC is from the USA...

The ED and Treasurer's report:

Reserve Acct. is holding steady, building fund gone after August. The mortgage will then come out of the operational acct. Attendance has dropped from average of 310 in January to 259 in May.

Mark Matney recaps the engagement we have had with the New Town community, in the glow run and for our movie nights. Both were a huge success and well received in New Town, and with assistance from their community organizers. We voted to authorize the purchase of 2 additional yard signs. Mark briefed us about an opportunity with AFP Foundation, which conducts practical skill education and provides free meals to adults that need them; all they require is a building to do this in. They do not charge anything to hold the classes in the building, and they do not pay us to use the space either.

Pastor's Report available from Mike upon request.

We teleconferenced with Stephen Clark, representative of the Virginia Association of United Methodists Foundation. This funding group focuses solely on helping churches refinance debt to be sustainable. Newtown initiated them to do a review of our situation and determine available options. The call was cut short due to Steve traveling through inclement weather, however the issue will be discussed further going forward.

Stephen's main points were that:

1. There should be a capital campaign to raise \$250 - \$350k over 3 years.
2. There should be a separate stewardship campaign over 6 mos.
3. Our debt is overwhelming and reduces the ministry we can do.
4. A large number of our congregants are under engaged in tithing.
5. People are giving less than what is needed to deal with the debt.
6. The foundation will work with us.
7. We need long range plans for 5, 10, and 15 years.

When developing the plans we need to answer questions like:

- Where are we going?
- How do we meet the needs of the younger generation?
- What is our mission?
- What empassions people in our congregation?