

**New Town United Methodist Church
Williamsburg, Virginia
Leadership Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)
October 21, 2014**

Attendees

Members present:

Todd Freneaux, Chairperson
Pastor Mike Derflinger
Terry Bossieux
Tom Hassler
Pam Dumont
Carole Martin
Mark Matney
Carl Timmer
Pam Klepec
Stephanie Turner
Ian Roberts
Jeff Koob

Members absent:

Ellyn Hassell

Guests present:

Karen Goins

Welcome, Devotion, and Prayer

The New Town United Methodist Church Leadership Board (LB) held its monthly meeting on October 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting took place in the youth room at NTUMC, 5209 Monticello Avenue and was called to order by Todd Freneaux.

Old Business

Approval of September 23rd minutes:

Tom Hassler made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Terry Bossieux seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance/Treasurer's Report (Ian Roberts/Terry Bossieux):

Referencing the amended September financials, Ian made the following comments:

- Operating: Actual monthly income is \$51,524.20 and Actual monthly expenses are \$55,667.63. YTD actual operating income is \$503,929.28 and YTD actual operating expenses are \$552,306.69, with a variance of \$48,377.41.
- Total: Including the mortgage payment of \$13,933.09, the YTD total deficit is \$73,228.22.

- Reserves: Operating \$36,033.84 (lowest it's been since Terry started tracking this); Building Fund \$138,730.72 (only 10 months worth of funds left).
- Preschool: YTD income \$142,889.45; YTD expenses \$161,995.62.
- The summary includes the \$52,006.00 memorial gift from Virginia Maynard's estate.
- So far this year, we've received 39 stewardship pledges totaling \$201,753.00.
- Discussion was had regarding the success of the KCC as well as other campaigns in previous years.
- In response to Pastor Mike's question about how much of the KCC shortfall is still attainable at this point (do we have statistics on members who left, members who didn't reach their pledge, etc.), Ian commented that there is no one-on-one plan to follow up with members who did not fulfill their pledges (however, a general reminder letter was mailed at the end of KCC).
- Pastor Mike commented that finding a solution to our financial struggle could be handled by MLT (if we see finances as a ministry effort), or we could form a group (a few LB members and open it to the congregation) to brainstorm ideas for moving forward.
- Terry responded that he sees the importance of following up on the KCC shortfall and finding a solution for that, but also sees this as a larger financial issue. We have an overall funding problem.
- All agreed that our overall funding problem (tithing) is essentially a spiritual issue. Pastor Mike suggested that he bring this back to MLT. This is not only a spiritual issue but an educational issue as well.
- Pam Dumont has gone on record multiple times over the last several LB meetings – she feels strongly that we must communicate our financial issues to the congregation.
- Pastor Mike posed several questions – what are the expectations of pastoral leadership in regards to stewardship? How long has the budget been at this high number? Has it been incrementally climbing?
- In response, several commented that the budget has fluctuated, but has been relatively the same over the past 5 years.
- All agreed that our budget has remained the same, but that our attendance and giving have decreased.
- In regards to the expectations of pastoral leadership in regards to stewardship, Pastor Mike asked that LB respond to him by the end of this year.

New Business

Vote on Pension Benefits:

- At the October 7th SPR meeting, SPR reached consensus to bring the following recommendation to LB:
Implement an enrollment in the United Methodist Pension Program to begin six months after an employee's hire date. NTUMC will match up to 6% of salary at 50%, which is a maximum of 3%. This will apply to those employed at 1,040 hours in the period of one year. This benefit will begin January 15, 2015 and applies to existing and new employees.
- Pam Dumont made a motion to accept the pension plan recommendation as presented. Carl Timmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2015 Budget Presentation (Ian Roberts/Terry Bossieux):

- Referencing the 2015 draft budget, Todd commented that voting to approve the budget will not happen at tonight's meeting (there is no need to rush voting on this in preparation for Charge Conference on October 26, 2014. At the Conference, the only items we will vote on will be salary and apportionments).
- Terry/Ian distributed a second draft of the 2015 budget and explained the changes with the updated draft.
- Carl Timmer made a motion to temporarily stop the apportionments for October through December until we can discuss and pray over our financial issues and budget. We are already erroneously overpaying. Matney seconded the motion. The motion was rejected unanimously.
- For reference, apportionments are roughly \$10,000 per month. January 15, 2015 is the last day to pay conference and district apportionments.
- Given that the motion was rejected, Ian plans to discuss our financial issues with the district treasurer to see if a cut in our apportionments is a possibility for this year.
- Todd commented that we must over-communicate our financial situation to the congregation. Otherwise, we cannot feasibly expect different results.
- LB, small groups, and the entire congregation need to pray about our situation.

Vote on the Budgeted Pastor's Salary and Apportionments for 2015:

- The Lead Pastor's salary and accountable reimbursements for 2015 are budgeted at \$70,000. Our apportionments for 2015 are budgeted at \$98,480 (church and district).
- Terry Bossieux made a motion to accept the Lead Pastor's salary and NTUMC's apportionments for 2015. Tom Hassler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Nominations Team Report (Pastor Mike):

- Nominations team met recently regarding nominations for LB and Trustees members.
- For the purposes of the Nominations Team report at Charge Conference, the following information will be included:
 - As of tonight, we have four applicants for Trustees with one person still deciding. We have three applicants for Leadership Board. Gender and member ratios will be met. Interviews will not occur before Charge Conference.
 - The following 2015 ad-hoc committee slate is not necessary for the Charge Conference, but is helpful as a recap:
 - SPR ad-hoc – Pam Klepec (Chairperson), Carl Timmer, Pam Dumont and Pastor Mike.
 - Finance ad-hoc – Terry Bossieux (Chairperson), Jeff Koob, Mark Matney, and one open position.
 - Nominations ad-hoc – Pastor Mike (Chairperson), Tom Hassler, and two open positions.
- Tom Hassler made a motion to accept the Nominations report for Trustees and Leadership Board. Terry Bossieux seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Additional New Business and Announcements:

- Pastor Mike distributed information from the Virginia Annual Conference web site about an upcoming vote.
 - Bishop Cho asked that we have a time of Holy conversation and prayer before a vote on several issues regarding homosexuality.
 - We are invited to attend a prayer gathering for the York River District on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at St. Luke's in Yorktown.
 - This event will be a live stream and recorded for future distribution and availability.

- Pastor Mike informed LB that our new District Superintendent would like to meet with members and leaders of NTUMC in early 2015.
 - This would be an informal discussion where she can get to know us (not a crisis meeting, but more of a town hall gathering).
 - The conversation is slated to last about 1.5 hours and will focus on ways we can carry out shared ministry together.
 - Light refreshments are fine (no covered dish).
 - Everyone is invited to attend (youth, leadership, members, etc.).
 - LB members are asked to bring suggested dates to the November LB meeting so that planning can begin.

Future Action Items and Upcoming Dates

- Select a date in January 2015 to meet with our new District Superintendent.

Adjournment

Todd adjourned the LB portion of the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The next LB meeting will be held November 18th, 2014 7:00 p.m., NTUMC Youth room.

Respectfully submitted by Elyn Hassell, Leadership Board Secretary