

Minutes, March 15, 2016 LB Meeting

New Town United Methodist Church

Present:

Board:

Gary Allen, Chair

Carl Timmons, Vice-Chair

Cameron Boone, Secretary

Rick Machamer, Treasurer

John Lohr

Mark Matney

Pam Klepec

Peg Williams

MLT:

Pastor Mike Doerflinger

ED Jeff Koob

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

The Chair commenced the meeting by asking for a report from the Nominations committee. The report was given and the board unanimously voted in favor of adding Peg Williams to the LB and Tom Winkler to the Trustees. The board is very excited about Peg's experience and wisdom in church leadership and Tom's breadth of knowledge regarding structural maintenance and organizational function.

The ED and Treasurer's report:

Giving has still been weak in 2016. There are currently no red flags in the budget. The board is asked to pray for Night at the Museum, which has a goal of raising 25 thousand dollars for the preschool. There was discussion and clarification on how the church distinguishes the preschool from the greater church operation for tax purposes. While the preschool has a separate budget, there is only one EIN number for both it and the church. Short answer – there is no distinction in the eyes of Uncle Sam between NTUMC and NTUMC preschool, even if leadership distinguishes between them for budgetary purposes.

The money we have been receiving from Faithful Remnant and City Life church is a good thing, and both congregations report happiness with the relationship to Jeff. They were coordinating how to fit in a Good Friday service with Steve.

There has been a lot of lost giving from congregants who have departed our fellowship.

Attendance is up from the 2015 average.

NTUMC has been awarded a \$2500.00 grant to do Out of the Box again this summer.

Rental assistance was given to a family who came to the church in need along with food and other necessities; Jeff and Donna worked together and the man in the family got a landscaping job through one of Jeff's contacts.

The church will be getting faster internet and better phone service for less money than it is currently paying by redoing the deal with Cox Communications.

The Chair begins discussion on how we can read the congregation into the difficult decisions that had been made in the January and February meetings regarding apportionment spending and “tithing”. Gary will write a letter to the congregation on behalf of the board outlining the situation before us. This is to be mailed in the next weeks after Easter. We also want to have a town hall a couple weeks after the letter is received to hear feedback from the congregation. Sunday morning has the highest concentration of congregants in one place, so it is decided to do it then. The objective of the meeting is to clarify the dire financial situation of the church. April 17th is floated as a possibility.

It is discussed how General Conference will affect giving and membership at NTUMC, re. sexual ethics that will be up for debate. We will have to wait and see what comes out of that meeting, but Pastor and leadership are planning for all eventualities.

Pastor’s remarks: Pastor has been busy doing visits to people who are sick or homebound or in the hospital. Following Jesus and a church chat café will be coming up. There were fewer than 30 attendees at last Wednesday’s “wonderful Wednesday”.

Board ended the meeting on time for once.