

# Leadership Board Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, Mar 19, 2019

***“Love God. Love Others. Share Christ with the World.”***

**LOCATION:** New Town United Methodist Church, Monticello Ave., Williamsburg, VA

### **ATTENDEES**

**Board Member:** Michael Diggs (Chair), Carl Timmer (Vice-Chair), Peg Williams, Rick Machamer, Pastor Garry Livermon, Jim Wright, Chris Woodfin, Richard Collins

**Guests:** Stacey Coopriider, Justin and Ciera Workman

### **1. Devotional**

**Michael** gave the devotional. The group divided up into twos and threes for prayer.

### **2. Approval of minutes**

**Chris** MOTION to approve Feb 2019 minutes

**Peg** SECOND

**PASSED** Unanimous

### **3. Justin & Ciera Workman**

Justin is becoming the new regional director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). He'll be covering the Williamsburg area high schools in addition to others in the region as well as William and Mary. He's been a coach and teacher at Bruton High for 4 years as is his wife. Currently they're raising their own support and asked that NTUMC prayerfully consider supporting their ministry, preferably on a monthly basis.

FCA has a tremendous influence with high school students and teachers and because FCA is student-led and faculty-supported, they can organize bible studies and other religious events at the schools. Stacey was excited about this because FCA would have the ability to invite her into the school during their events.

### **4. Worship director search**

Chris said that the job description was almost done and would be finalized soon. Garry said we needed a salary range, preferably with input from other churches. Marc Merriman would like to be on the search committee. Various job web sites were suggested: churchstaffing.com, clergynet (VA annual conf), churchjobs.net. Steve will be staying through Easter.

Handling worship during the interim: Garry suggested a small committee of 3 people to lead – taking turns. Rick suggested 4 (one for each week during a month). Consensus was to pay something on the order of \$250/week to lead worship. Possible leaders: Harrison Merriman, Audrey Stephenson, Jonathan Diggs, Marc Merriman, Todd Freneaux, Michael Diggs.

Steve's going-away-party is tentatively scheduled for April 14, potluck. Need to ask Steve what a good date is. *Post meeting update: party is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>.*

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Rick reported that there was a deficit of \$4901 last month. Attendance is averaging 250 this year as opposed to 263 last year. Perhaps that explains the difficulty in meeting the budget. Garry will check into whether dropping attendance is a trend. The tithe for Feb is \$2487.

### **6. Contributions Policy and Missions Funding**

Michael laid out some reasons for needing a policy concerning the solicitation, acceptance, and use of contributions. We need a policy since we are making decisions each month about how to give away the tithe and we have found ourselves needing guidelines concerning how to evaluate potential beneficiaries. We want to make decisions that we know are aligned with our mission and goals. We have been spending a significant portion of our monthly meetings determining how to use the tithe, yet still have concerns about vetting of organizations and how to avoid any conflicts of interest, whether actual or appearing so. We all looked at the "Donor Bill of Rights" that Michael emailed everyone. Michael concludes we can do better with transparency and use it to build trust with the congregation, which could in turn encourage giving. We need to present finances to the congregation in a way that matches our expenses with our mission and goals and demonstrates the value of our activities.

We went over the Contribution Policy that Michael drafted. See that document for more details. Part of that document categorized and prioritized our giving into 5 categories: 1) ministries, 2) support activities, 3) apportionments, 4) benevolence, and 5) missions. LB members are to read the policy, digest it, and be ready to discuss it in the next meeting.

Decided to hold off on distributing the tithe until the contribution policy proposal can be thought through. But we did agree to fund 15% of Karineh Dumont's cost to attend a mission trip to Nepal with her school, Gordon College, which comes to \$375. Rick volunteered to come up with a list of ministries for voting to put on an "approved" list. The pastor's discretionary fund could be figured as part of the tithe.

### **7. Special speakers**

Carl suggested asking Libby and Richard Gordon, both pastors at Bethel Church in Redding, CA, to be the guest speakers at a conference/revival at NTUMC. The plan has the approval of Garry and Michael. There was some uncertainty due to unfamiliarity with the Gordons. It was finally decided that Carl would send an email to Libby as an invitation to speak. There is some money in the budget for such speakers.

Peg suggested asking Billy Burke (<https://billyburke.org>) to be a guest speaker. We are investigating what is involved in having him come to NTUMC.

### **8. Pastor's Report**

Garry provided the report. Steve's father died this past week and the family is asking that gifts be given to Wycliffe. Garry asked if NTUMC has a bereavement policy and Chris confirmed that we do not. We acknowledged that we need to develop one.

Garry brought up Fresh Expressions, which he has mentioned before. Barna studies find that 80% of any community is unchurched. We used to be able to depend on an attractional church model where we open our doors as a Methodist church and know that people will come. This is no longer the case. Garry is encouraging us to consider supporting a leader to start a new ministry under NTUMC oversight that has as its mission to reach people in our area who do not know Christ and may never set foot in our church or any church. More to come on this idea.

**9. Closed** meeting with prayer.

**10. Next LB meeting is April 16, 2019.**