

Minutes, May 17, 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

Karen Goins

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

The ED and Treasurer's report:

Building fund will be depleted after the August principal payment for the mortgage. Thenceforth, it will have to be paid from the operating budget. April saw the lowest average attendance for the entire year. There is currently a deficit in the church budget and a surplus in the preschool budget.

Karen gave a great summary of the youth ministry at NTUMC and ways in which the Prayer Room has been used lately. Of note was someone who was parked on the street outside the prayer room and was approached by members of NTUMC who asked if they would like prayer. This is a really awesome testimony, and should be heard rather than read – ask Jeff or Karen for the details.

Mark Matney gives a summary of what the MLT has been working towards for summer outreach. NTUMC will be showing outdoor movies once a month this summer, with free popcorn and water. After Jeff and Gretchen made contact with Mr. Casey, manager of the New Town commercial development, he asked us to show our first movie in New Town itself, rather than at NTUMC. He said that there is a no solicitation policy, but we pretty much have carte blanche to operate in New Town. New Town is having a series of summer events, and the church's goal is to become enmeshed with these events, and to have a constant presence. We will have a team run in the Glow Run, and are discussing how to be present in each of the events this summer.

Pastor's Report: We are waiting to see the impact of General Conference. At last year's annual conference, VA voted to

remove the incompatibility clause from the B.o.D. VA conference is getting a new bishop, and we should have a good feel for him by July. The superintendent of our district knows our heart and our stances re social issues. Mike is going to the New Room Conference meeting in September. The goal of the New Room Conference is not to create a new denomination, but to provide an alternative resource for like-minded churches. It has a very Asbury-ish feel to it. It is inter-denominational and NTUMC would feel very comfortable at New Room. We may want to send a team of folks this year (to Franklin, TN). This is not a sign that NTUMC is leaving or even *thinking* of leaving the VA annual conference, however.

Pastor Mike ran through several statistics about NTUMC and its place in the VA annual conference. There are approximately 200 appointments in the conference. NTUMC is 10th out of 137 medium sized churches. Out of the top 200 churches overall, we rank 54th in size but only 134th in salary. We have one of the highest ratios of members to attendants. We have an outstanding youth group and one of the most sought-after preschools in town. We have one worship style. Date of charge conference has not been given yet. Mike says he confirmed with the D.S. that he cannot get a raise in 2017 because we did not pay our full apportionments this year. As of May 13th, we have only 48% of our members that are regular attenders. Since the April LB letter and congregational meeting, Mike feels good about the efforts and that the congregation received it all well, and appreciated the transparency. People just want to hear about and see more growth. Nobody on the inactive roll reached out because of the letter.

The LB adjourned at about 8:45p to resume shortly thereafter in SPR mode.