

# NT UMC LEADERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

17 March 2015

In attendance:

LB members: Tom Hassler (Chair), Terry Bossieux, Pam Klepec, Pam Dumont, Carl Timmer, Mark Matney, Gary Allen (Secretary *pro tem*), Tiffany Dormire, John Lohr, Pastor Mike Derflinger.

Staff: Jeff Koob, Steve Weber, Stephanie Turner.

Guests: Peter Polidari (Trustees), Lois Demerich (“From His Hands”)

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The Chair called the meeting to order; Pam Klepec gave the devotional and Gary Allen shared the story of a science/religion conference.

## **Missions and Ministry**

1. Pastor’s Vision: two meetings (3/3 and 3/11) held with Roy irardi, Fred **Liggin** and David. Benedict re their execution of a similar mission which were very helpful in enlarging and focusing the effort, avoiding labels for the recipients and setting out some practical aspects of such missions. April 26th had been chosen by MLT and, at the pastor’s request, was formally and unanimously APPROVED by the LB as the date for the next Sunday evening “town hall” on the LAF project; Messrs**Liggin** and Benedict will be asked to attend and present.

2. “From His Hands:” Introduced by the Chair, Lois Demerich briefed the LB on the history and accomplishments of this ministry, which grew from a small effort to feed people in the Grove community to one now shared among member churches, with NT members active in the ministry. NT prepares and serves bi-monthly Friday night meals to families temporarily housed in local motels. A golf fundraiser is upcoming.
3. Pastor Mike reported on his attendance at a March 7<sup>th</sup> discussion/conversation session of clergy and laity convened by the District at Woodlake UMC in Chesterfield on the subject of human sexuality and same-sex marriage issues facing the UMC. Speakers for the “traditional” and “progressive” viewpoint spoke and nine options that have been advanced as viable were discussed, with general agreement that none were satisfactory to either side.
4. Facility usage: Pastor Mike reported that three proposals are under consideration for shared/compensated usage of our church facilities:
  - a. First Night Williamsburg: New Year’s Eve (only) as a venue for one or more acts in this family-oriented, alcohol-free celebration.
  - b. Goddard private school graduation.
  - c. Spanish-speaking congregation seeking every Sunday all afternoon for service, Sunday school, etc.
  - d. City Life Church/Williamsburg, seeking weekly Saturday evening worship.

The LB was generally positive and encouraged further discussions of potential agreement terms. It was later noted that the weekly church usage could provide an additional \$1-2k gross revenue, and help additional believers expand/realize their ministry and visions.

## **Executive Director**

Treasurer Terry Bossieux and ED Jeff Koob led a broad-ranging discussion of ongoing income issues. The Operating budget was \$18k short for the first two months of 2015; though still short, monthly income has increased somewhat. But the overall giving is “weak” compared to budget. The ED had met with our banker and discussed interest-only payments (three months might be approved, six months problematic for both sides), another capital campaign (raise \$150k, lower monthly payments by \$2k). The bank suggested paying the principal out of our building fund and interest out of current expenses, which the ED is recommending to extend the life of the building fund. The bank is comfortable with the church’s position currently and the ED says we’re not at a “panic button” situation, but solutions must be found.

After a broad-ranging discussion, Pam Dumont suggested and e-arranged a meeting between the ED and her banker, who is aggressively looking to build up his bank’s loan portfolio and might offer considerably better terms. The LB commended the exploration of this avenue of possible savings.

Apportionments: the church is paying only \$500/mo; the ED proposed, and Terry Bossieux MOVED that the church pay the full \$1229.33 monthly amount of the pastor's Active Clergy Health Apportionment for 2015 going forward, and promptly make a catch-up \$2700 payment to date. PASSED unanimously.

Ad Hoc team: of 70+ suggestions, those being discussed are listed on the handout. These were broadly discussed by the LB. The point was made and noted that there are some encouraging financial signs and that the Lord is opening new avenues of income (church utilization, new loan) as the church moves toward more robust, tithe-based giving. Additionally, programs such as the HS youth Blackstone retreat, an upcoming Middle School youth retreat, and congregational Small Group participation are encouraging signs of the Spirit's work in the congregation.

### **Other Action**

January and February LB Minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

Among the many items mentioned in the closing round were disseminating Carol Martin's letter to the full LB, a follow-up to the March 1<sup>st</sup> between-services meeting, noting the upward movement in offerings, the possible new church tenants as LAF "families" to help upward, and the fact that God has us in this interesting place for very good reasons.

The meeting was ADJOURNED at about 9:15pm.