

FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
BOARD OF STEWARDS

REGULAR MEETING

July 1, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Board of Stewards of the Fairhope United Methodist Church was held on July 1, 2021 on the Zoom APP.

Attendance: Rev. Darren McClellan, Mike Lockwood, Johnny Northcutt, Bob Walsh, Rev. Laura Parker, Wanda Harris, Jane Dolan, Mary Lucas, Jeff White, Kate Lavelle, Emily Garner, Cecilia Lammers, Mary Finger, Tom Hood, Michelle Graham, Ann Pearson, Richard Nisbett, Diana Justis, Jamie Waldhour, Steve Pearson, Gene Lammers, Lucie Fralicks, Natalie Woodrow, Linda James.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved online.

Gene Lammers gave a report from Annual Conference.

Nature, Outreach and Witness Ministries – Thorough reports from all Ministries and Missions are attached. Comments below reflect areas to be stressed and emphasized, or points which have come up post write-ups.

Children's Ministries - Michelle Graham: This is Michelle's last meeting as she is stepping down from her leadership position. Kudos to Michelle for her outstanding performance and leadership of Children's Ministries. Our Church cannot thank her enough for all she has done.

- Children's Ministry is very strong. VBS was very successful with 330 people on campus. Decorations are being shared with 2 other churches.
- 33 young people will attend Blue Lake Summer Camp July 15
- Focus now is preparing for August 8<sup>th</sup> which will be Promotion Sunday

Missions/Church Life – Jennifer Myrick:

- Community Cafe has reopened on Fridays and will provide 200 meals to our community each week. 30 – 35 of our regular friends are returning for our Friday meals.
- Wednesday night suppers have begun again.
- We are participating in the Rise against Hunger campaign with local Rotary Clubs, which estimates to provide over 40,000 meals to our community.
- July 31<sup>st</sup>—Back to school!
- Waterfront Rescue Mission – in need of men's underwear and T-shirts

### Caring Ministries – Ann Pearson

- We are starting “grief support” groups on Mondays. One of our Stephen Ministers is helping facilitate these efforts.
- Starting a 2<sup>nd</sup> bible study on July 19<sup>th</sup> and will be studying the book of Joshua
- Attended a continuing education session on caring for people stricken with cancer
- The next continuing education series I will attend will focus on people “in the final hours of life”
- Sad to inform that 11 members of our church have died.

### Music Ministry – Tom Hood:

- We are in a rebuilding phase of recruiting members who have sung in the choir previously and also new members. We are going to announce in church services, place in print in the Link, and have a new graphic on our website
- In talks with the college music departments of USA, Coastal Community, and University of Mobile to target young aspiring students for our scholarship program
- Planning an “Evening Concert” for September 12<sup>th</sup> for our community. We are still looking for singers.
- Wednesday night choir rehearsals will begin again the first part of August
- Had opportunity to help with VBS
- Our Christmas Cantata is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>. Have arranged the orchestra and still looking for singers
- Having talks with choirs of other local Methodist Churches to possibly put together a night of a big “Community Sing Worship Service”. Patterned after an event held in Ft. Walton which was a great night of singing with numerous churches. Targeting early February –will probably start small but could grow and be a great morale booster for our choirs.

### Recreation Ministry – Jamie Waldhour

- CLC is fully open from 7am to 5pm
- Starting a new effort for a golf camp for our youth. Partnering with the Payne Stewart Golf Association. Will be for ages 4-9, held in our gym, and have about 25 kids signed up. Will be held the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> in the afternoons. Flag football coming up in the fall and then basketball after that.

### Trustee Report—Michael Chambless (not available—presented by Rev. Darren)

- The repairs on the roof discussions have been put on hold to see if expenses level out in the near future. Costs have skyrocketed and we are looking at a 20 week lead time on materials.

- A subcommittee has been regrouped and streamlined to look at “security protocol” –recruiting ushers and greeters. Efforts with respect the Law Enforcement Officer will continue for the time being and will be evaluated for effectiveness.

A question was raised about the risk of not repairing the roof with hurricane season. The group feels it is a risk worth taking at this point due to the skyrocketing costs and the fact the roof withstood the effects of hurricane Sally.

- Jeff White: We will look at installing AC in welcome center now that it will be used more.

#### Finance Report – Kate Lavelle

- When budgeting one of the biggest concerns was non-pledged contributions. Had year-end positive impact on non-pledged contributions of \$40k with people contributing for a taxable contribution which helped. We took a hard look at expenses with the known impact of non-pledged contributions. Best-case estimate at this point is we will have a deficit of \$115K. However, it is felt with all unknowns that we will realistically be looking at a deficit of anywhere from \$120K to \$150K+ for this fiscal year. It is felt that this is such an extraordinary year which accounts for the fiscal shortfall. Fortunately, the church has cash reserves which can be used to cover the shortfall. This is the first shortfall we have experienced since 2015.
- Important to consider all these parameters when budgeting for 2022.

#### Staff-Parish Relations Report—Robbie Rux (could not attend—filled in by Rev. Darren)

- SPR actively interviewing to replace Michelle Graham. Candidate has been identified and we are moving forward with the process.

#### Butterfly Habitat on Church Campus –Ran Nisbett

- Looking at developing a spiritual renewal program around Monarch Butterflies. Primary focus would be around families and small groups.
- With approval of BOS, Ran and Diana Justis took on responsibility to develop a planning committee to determine next steps.

Communication Team: Plan to develop new document to tell our story to put in hands of congregation. Hope to have a piece in hand by late August. More to come. Looking for input on interesting stories to share. God news to share which we are excited about.

Additional New Business: None

Associate Pastor Comments:

Rev. Laura: Area of focus to be aware is assimilation efforts for new members and potential members. Several sessions are underway, What is Methodism?, a tour of campus, and discipleship and others to draw people closer in the life of the church.

Senior Pastor Remarks—Rev. Darren: Happy from Annual Conference to be back as our Pastor. Looking forward to leading our Church and drawing out more communication and participation of everyone in our congregation. His door is always open!

Concluding remarks from Mike Lockwood.

Ann Pearson closed the meeting in prayer.