

FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BOARD OF STEWARDS

MINUTES OF REGULAR AUGUST 27, 2020, MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

The Board of Stewards of Fairhope United Methodist Church met August 27, 2020, via Zoom, in a regularly scheduled meeting. Chairman Gene Lammers opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m., with a devotional and a prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Dorman, Shannon Hesse, Diana Justis, Pam Turner, Linda James, Wanda Harris, Ed Colvin, Johnny Northcutt, Michael Chambless, Rebekah Chambless, Doug Garner, Emily Garner, Jane Dolan, Mark Mathias, Terri Myrick, Claire Kimbrough, Gene Lammers, Linda Smith, Colby Cooper, Bealle Dawson, Chuck Huguley, Susan Koenig, Chuck Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Darren McClellan, Ontonio Christie, Ann Pearson, Jeff White, Jennifer Myrick, Tom Hood, Michelle Graham, Rachel Waldhour, Martha Monckton,

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Michele Manasco, Bill Munson, Ari Ojanpera, Brenda Robinson, Mary Finger, Jack Justis, Mary Hodgkins, Steve Pearson,

MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Agee Adams, Rusty Allman, Will Autrey, Rebecca Bell, Patt Branyon, Brock Davis, Michael Casallo, Shawn Drummond, John Estes, Jeremy Friedman, Brandi Fulford, Pat Gamble, Karen Goldy, Ginny Hollis, Michelle Huguley, Ann Jones, Fred Jordan, Chad Kirtland, Robyn Koser, Scott Koser, Holly Langston, Rachel Lovingood,, Mary Helen Marks, Christa Myrick, Wendy Pierce, Katie Robertson, Alex Robinson, Nicole Sansom, Alicia Searcy, Amy Smith, Leah Sowell, Steve Sowell, Molly Spain, Amber Sparks, Kay Speir, Sarah Stacey, Jackie Trueblood, Lee Turner, Tom Tyler, Natalie Woodrow

STAFF ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Laura Parker

STAFF ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: Tina Wettermark, Jamie Waldhour, Julia Gavin, Patricia Taylor,, Bobbi Hobbs, Michael Spicer

MINUTES: Minutes of the August 4, 2020, meeting were approved as written.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Rachel Waldhour reported on the transition to in-person meetings of the youth of the church, beginning August 26, 2020. The youth met in two different groups, separated by a 15-20 minute sanitation period between meetings, in the Fellowship Hall of the Christian Life Center. Each large group then split into two smaller groups with one smaller group meeting in the meeting area outside the gym, and one meeting in the Fellowship Hall. All of those attending (29 in the first group and 21 in the second) observed social distancing and wore masks. She reported that the meetings and the sanitation periods went well, and the youth appeared to enjoy themselves. The newly purchased sanitation sprayer gun was used and was extremely useful.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Chairman Lammers expressed the group's sympathies to Director of Music Ministry Tom Hood on the recent death of his father. Tom thanked him and then reviewed the summer activities of the choir programs of the church. Certain volunteers of the Chancel Choir met on most Fridays to sing hymns at the homes of various church members who were homebound, or were living in nursing homes. The choirs met on most Wednesdays via Zoom before proceeding to meet outside the sanctuary to keep in touch. Tom said that he was trying to get different choir members to participate in the recorded portions of the worship services, and that he hoped to have the bell choir to participate in a service soon. He said that the choirs were social distancing in all events, and that future rehearsals would take place in spaces larger than the choir room to enable social distancing. He announced that he was anticipating having mostly instrumentals for the Christmas services this year, and related that the music in the services during the pandemic had allowed him to work more closely with the CLC musicians than before, and that he thoroughly enjoyed doing so.

TRUSTEES: Michael Chambless reported for the Trustees and discussed the sod project, the re-doing of the CLC gym floor, and the erosion problem. He stated that he expected the gym floor project to be completed in about two weeks. Bealle Dawson later reported that the Trustees had postponed the roofing contract for further investigation and consideration until after the first of the coming year.

FINANCE: Jeff White reported that the financial position for the church finances for the period of January through July, and the preliminary numbers for August, showed a positive picture. He said that the goal was to have three months of operating capital in cash to ensure stability. On request of Chairman Lammers, he said that he would send out copies of the church's financial statements, after learning that same had not

been done before the meeting. He announced that last year's budget would be presented as the budget for the coming year in light of the pandemic.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS: Rebekah Chambless reported that Jenna Hood had been hired to fill the already budgeted, part-time position of Worship Assistant, beginning September 1, 2020, after the committee had observed her hard and good work, among which was assisting in the on-line streaming of the worship services during the pandemic. She praised all the staff for helping to keep expenses down.

ACTION ITEM: She reported that the committee recommended that the pastoral salaries for the coming year remain the same as they were this year, i.e., \$223,601.63 for the combined salaries of Pastors McClellan, Parker and Christie. She then moved for the adoption of that recommendation; the motion was seconded by Chuck Huguley; and was passed by a unanimous voice vote, and now will be presented to the Charge Conference for possible final adoption.

STEWARDSHIP: Shannon Hesse announced that the committee's report was pending. Darren McClellan announced a target date of October 25, 2020, as Consecration Commitment Sunday.

RE-OPENING READINESS: Chuck Huguley reported that the committee had been working hard and achieved a great deal. He said that reservations for the planned three services had filled within 24 hours, and that a fourth service was then added. He said that ushers had been trained to seat attendees appropriately; that the new sanitizing sprayer gun equipment had been purchased and was working efficiently; that PPE (masks and hand sanitizers) was in place; that volunteers had been trained; and that he expected the process to go well for the first stage of the church's re-opening for modified in-person worship, with on-line streaming to continue. He emphasized that the process was fluid and may change from Sunday to Sunday, as dictated by demand and circumstances. Darren McClellan praised Chuck, Alice Searcy, and Susan Koenig, and then added that training had been given to handle problems and complaints; that Ontonio Christie was to be point person between services; recommended that worshipers arrive a few minutes early to take care of safety precautions; and re-iterated that this is a work in progress.

REV. ANTONIO CHRISTIE: Antonio thanked the Board and the readiness committee for their hard work. He stated that the preparation for re-opening of services for in-person worship looked good and that he looked forward to it.

DR. DARREN MCCLELLAN: Darren thanked the Board and the congregation for their support and patience during the re-opening process. He spoke of the closing of certain District offices, and the loss of various administrative assistants throughout the District. He told the Board that he would shortly be asking for contributions for a gift to one of the longtime administrative assistants, whose job had been phased out.

CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN: Gene announced that Charge Conference of the Eastern Shore Cluster, of which we are a part, will take place on November 5, 2020, at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The next meeting of the Board of Stewards will be announced later.

CLOSING PRAYER: Given by Emily Garner, Co- Lay Leader.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA S. JAMES,
Recording Secretary