

FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOARD OF STEWARDS

REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Stewards of Fairhope United Methodist Church was held on December 17, 2020 on the Zoom app. Gene Lammers opened the meeting at 6:05 PM with a devotion on the abnormal circumstances of the first Christmas, comparing them to the abnormal circumstances of our current Christmas.

ATTENDANCE

Thirteen members were present, along with four staff members: Will Autrey, Rebekah Chambless, Bealle Dawson, Shawn Drummond, Emily Garner, Diana Justis, Claire Kimbrough, Gene Lammers, Mark Mathias, Bill Munson, Christa Myrick, Ari Ojanpera, Steve Pearson, Ontonio Christie, Darren McClellan, Laura Parker, and Ann Pearson. Patt Branyon, Shannon Hesse, Michele Manasco, Johnny Northcutt and Wendy Pierce had excused absences.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were approved online.

TRUSTEES

With help from Darren McClellan, Bealle Dawson reported on the church's security policies. Security team volunteers are present at services. As we return to in-person services, the pool of volunteers available to serve has diminished. Since 2018, the church has hired Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to be on campus during services. The Trustees are looking at revisiting the security protocols, and considering installing additional security cameras.

Tony Caminiti spoke in depth about his involvement with the Security Ministry. He asked for a meeting with the Trustees and church leadership as soon as possible to address security issues. He stressed the importance of LEOs as a visible deterrent and an immediate source of response in an emergency. Although the cost of LEOs is going from \$30/hour to \$45/hour, the Security Committee recommends continuing to use LEOs. Gene Lammers thanked Tony for all the work he has put into this area.

FINANCE

Bill Munson discussed how blessed the church has been financially in this difficult year. Pledged giving remained strong. Non-pledged giving was down, but so were expenses. We will end the year in the black, with high cash reserves.

The Board passed a robust budget for 2020. The Finance Committee is recommending the same budget for 2021, with some adjustments for minor SPR changes. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes.

It was moved and seconded that the budget be approved. Possible changes in Security costs for additional cameras or the increased cost of LEO coverage are not reflected in the budget, but Bill stated that would not be a significant adjustment to the budget and could be addressed as it developed in the coming year. The motion passed without dissent.

STAFF-PARISH
RELATIONS

Rebekah Chambless expressed her gratitude for the level of support for the staff Christmas gift fund.

SHEPHERD'S
PLACE

Susie Caminiti reported that while Shepherd's Place was not able to meet because of Covid, the program was communicating with families and delivering meals to clients. She discussed the program's tentative plans to reopen. In January, the director would return to work in her office at the church. In mid to late February, there would be a soft opening with 3-4 clients. In March or April, the program would return at full strength. Temperature checks will be taken on all participants, staff and volunteers will wear facemasks, and a waiver is being drafted for clients to sign if they choose to participate.

Darren McClellan and Gene Lammers agreed that as the church staff is returning to the office, the Shepherd's Place director is clear to return to work at the church. The remainder of the reopening plan should be brought to the Reopening Committee for consideration.

PASTORS'
REPORTS

Laura Parker and Ontonio Christie spoke briefly, with Ontonio asking for prayers for clement weather on Christmas Eve. Darren McClellan spoke about a Zoom meeting to be held January 14th for introductions and orientation with the core executive teams. He thanked the departing members of the Board and welcomed the new slate of leaders taking their posts in the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

After a closing prayer from Steve Pearson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Shawn Drummond
Substitute Recording Secretary