

Fairhope United Methodist Church  
Board of Stewards

Regular Meeting  
April 22, 2021

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Attendees:

Mary Corbitt, Michael Chambless, Ed Colvin, Steve Delamore, Emily Garner, Ashley James, Fred Jordan, Mike Lockwood, Stewart Nobles, Robbie Rux, Lee Turner, Natalie Woodrow, Michelle Graham, Wanda Harris, Lucie Fralicks, Paula Wilson, Jennifer Myrick, Mary Lucas, Mary Helen Marks, Bob Walsh, Ann Pearson, Laura Parker, Ontario Christie, Tom Hood, Jeff White, and Darren McClellan.

MINUTES:

Emily Garner delivered a beautiful presentation on her feelings and thoughts about what she loved most about FUMC. Clearly the Church has been instrumental in supporting the Garner family.

The minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting were approved online.

Darren McClellan addressed the Annual Conference which will be held on Zoom June 6<sup>th</sup> thru the 9<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery. The church lay delegates attending the Conference will be Gene Lammers, Steve Pearson, and Diana Justis.

Mike Lockwood underscored how important and appreciated the Staff reports are to helping the BOS keep up with all the activities going on at our church.

Staff Reports:

Children's Ministry - Michelle Graham: Michelle highlighted a few initiatives. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders art night led by Rev. Ontario was outstanding. Our Children's Ministry has its' own Facebook page and she encouraged all to review the beautiful art created that night. VBS will be held June 7-11 and is now full! Crew leaders are needed as there are several vacant positions for Grades 1-4. Blue Lake Camp is feeling the effects from Covid and is short on needed supplies. The Camp has a "needs list" on Amazon Prime for donations.

Missions – Jennifer Myrick: Family Promise Ministry effort is moving forward and will host 2 families May 2-8. The Community Rise Against Hunger event will be Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are working with Trinity Presbyterian, Fairhope PD, and local Rotary Clubs on this effort. The event will be held at the Rotary Youth Club on Young Street. Blue Lake camp has reached out to the

church to help with some “work days” to get the camp ready for the summer programs. We are working on an effort to help with these needs.

Caring Ministries – Ann Pearson: Mentioned a few things not mentioned in notes. Finished delivering gifts to all 683 families (in a 3 week period of time) to express love and support during this prolonged time of separation. The Knit and Crochet Group is up and running. They will be setting up tables out front on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Arts and Crafts Festival to sell items that they have made. Ann will be starting a Bible Study beginning in May covering the book of Genesis. Finally, we encourage the congregation to let one of the pastoral staff or call the church office when we have members in the hospital. Home bound communion is available, contact Dr. Ann Pearson if you know of anyone who needs this service.

Music Ministry – Tom Hood: Good news the Adult Choir is up and growing again. Adult choir will be presenting a Disney Showcase on Sunday afternoon, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Children’s choir will be holding a talent show on the afternoon of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Music Ministries is investigating holding a couple of evening “Hymn Sings” during the summer to augment the Vesper services which were very successful. Finally, looking to rebuild volunteer team for communion service and ushering.

Trustees Report – Michael Chambless: Main issue is roof work on the main sanctuary. Bids have been sent out to 4 contractors. Goal is to have selected a contractor by June 17<sup>th</sup> so we can get on their schedule to beat upcoming hurricane season. The balcony project is continuing to move forward.

Finance Report – Jeff White: Balance sheet highlights through February we have \$926K in cash which is very strong. P&L; we ended the period with a positive cash flow of \$13,224. We are ahead on budgeted income thru the period. We were able to refinance the mortgage from a 4% to 2.75% which is saving quite a bit of money.

Staff-Parish Relations Report – Robbie Rux: The main point is the unanimous endorsement for a trip to Italy for Rev. Ontonio and his family.

New Business – No items raised for discussion.

New Worship Protocols - We are eliminating various procedures driven by Covid. Registration for attendance has been eliminated and attendance is increasing. We are seeing an increase in new people attending worship.

Associate Pastor Remarks:

Ontonio: Thanks to the Staff Parish Relations committee for endorsing our trip to Italy. The trip will be 4 weeks in duration. He is looking forward to personal family time and celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on the trip. Exciting times as activities at church slowly return to normal.

Laura: One item to draw attention to is our Assimilation efforts thanks to Emily Garner and Lucie Fralicks. We are planning a Welcome Dinner for new members and regular visitors on May 12<sup>th</sup>. We have a guest list of between 50-60 people. Great opportunity to get to know each other better and share our church ministry with the new people.

Senior Pastor Remarks: - Darren: Thanks to the staff for their contribution to our church in very trying times. Going forward we have an opportunity to evaluate programs that have been working and those that have not, and develop a fresh approach for our future.

One key area of focus is the reconstruction of our Communications Team. The focus of this team will be to capture the stories that best present the “Good News” of what God is doing here at FUMC. One key goal is to share our faith and frame a narrative of what our mission and ministry is all about. He is in the recruitment process and building a team. Hope is to have an initial document by midsummer to share. Ontario is going to lead the team. Another key area will be to rebuild the Hospitality Team to welcome new visitors when they visit our church.

Rev. Laura closed the meeting with a word of prayer