

Fairhope United Methodist Church
Board of Stewards
Regular Meeting: September 23, 2021

Attendees:

Mary Corbitt, Michael Chambless, Ed Colvin, Steve Delamore, Emily Garner, Ashley James, Fred Jordan, Mike Lockwood, Stewart Nobles, Robbie Rux, Jennifer Myrick, Mary Lucas, Bob Walsh, Ann Pearson, Laura Parker, Antonio Christi, Tom Hood, Jeff White. Darren McClellan, Jamie Waldhour, Thomas Slone, Gene Lammers, Linda James, Brenda Robinson

MINUTES:

Staff Reports:

Caring Ministries – Ann Pearson: Report included.

Recreation Ministry – Jamie Waldhour – Overall, CLC activity is increasing. People are coming and taking advantage of the track, fitness room and playing pickle ball. We are staying busy and ministry is going well.

Missions – Jennifer Myrick: Live report traveling back from LaPlace, LA, providing help to the people suffering from hurricane Sally. We were able to supply over 300 meals to people just reconnecting their power. Working with LaPlace UMC and more people will be coming over in the days ahead. Thank everyone who provided supplies to fill the buckets. We were able to provide assistance and supplies to about 500 evacuees across Baldwin and Escambia Counties. Provided 50 uniforms for school children.

Music Ministry – Tom Hood: Exciting news that people are coming in and the choir is picking up. People are coming back from vacation and feeling more comfortable again. Children's choir has started with about 20 kids showing up. We are working on the handbells team with 3 ladies attending rehearsals and are very dedicated. We are excited about continuing the Vespers Services on the 2nd Sunday of every month. We plan to continue through the fall.

Trustees Report – Michael Chambless: Received our insurance statement and unfortunately it went up 44% from last year. Contributing to the increase is of course the hurricanes and increasing costs in raw materials. Still working on finding a contractor for repairs for conference room wood floors. Received a facility use agreement from the Red Cross wanting to use the Church for shelter if needed. We had some questions for them to respond to so hopefully we can get things cleared up so the Church can be used in the future if needed. We toured the trustees around campus to review the security camera system. We have 11 cameras existing today. After the tour we entertained two proposals; one using the existing cameras plus additional cameras and one replacing all cameras. Using the existing cameras plus additional cameras one proposal was around \$14,000. Another proposal was \$21,000 using all new cameras to cover the campus. We want to propose to the BOS that since we are seeing so many costs increases, we use the \$9,600 we are using for security. The \$9,600 is currently

being used for(LEO). After entertaining several questions, a motion was made and passed to use the \$9,600 towards upgrading the camera security across campus.

We have been reviewing our landscaping contract because we are seeing a significant increase in costs of about \$11,000. We entertained several bids because the increase was so high. After comparing the bids the decision was taken to keep Sexton for our landscaping. They have been doing a good job for us. It renews in January.

Finance Report – Jeff White: Budget 2021. The budget for 2021 is down \$68K in income and our income is not where we had hoped it would be in our budget. Based on revisions for where our income and expense projections are to be, we will need to use \$100k of our cash reserve to cover losses for the year. Currently we have \$1.267mill in the money market; \$17K in our main account; \$28K in our merchant account; and accounting for everything we have about \$1.325 Cash assets. We are very blessed as a church to have the cash position that we have. December is a real critical month for the church as historically 17% of our pledges come in December.

2022 Budget -Tom Slone - We are proposing a 2022 budget of \$2.353M which is \$18.5K less than the 2021 budget. Total Ministry expenses are up only \$1.8K; non-Ministry Expense is down \$20.3K largely due to the refinance of our mortgage. We will continue to analyze expense/revenue trends and modify the budget as needed. We feel that given the understanding of the overall church finances, we feel confident in utilizing the cash reserve as a stop-gap solution for budget shortfalls in 2021 and 2022. The 2022 budget as presented was voted on and passed with the understanding that December results could require a budget modification once final numbers are tabulated.

Detailed budget sheet Projections are attached to this report.

Staff-Parish Relations Report – Robbie Rux: The committee met and recommended that the salaries and benefits for our 3 pastors stay the same from 2021 to 2022. Also much discussion about supporting the Children’s ministries since Jenna Hood is on maternity leave. We feel confident that things will move forward in good shape.

Darren McClellan – Comments on Charge Conference and Communications

Charge Conference – Charge Conference will be October 28th. Unlike Charge Conferences in the past, the Conference will be in Clusters to keep attendance small due to obvious Covid Concerns. Julia will be preparing everything for the Conference.

Communications – One vision we have which was discussed last BOS Meeting was to implement a new Monthly Magazine; a regular communication to get to our congregation. It is envisioned to be a visually stunning, well written piece to get to everyone. Including those members who are not into technology and find emails a challenge. We are developing our team and are shooting for our first “magazine” to be ready mid-November.

Nominations Committee Report- Rev. Darren presented a Report from the Committee on Nominations for several years through nominations in 2024. **(Copy of Report to be attached)** It was moved and seconded to accept the Committee's recommendation with the understanding it has the flexibility to fill vacant positions going forward.

Stewardship Campaign – Chris Stoval: Darren has worked with him in the past. We have engaged him at a very reduced rate to work with us. Kicking off October 10th. And the name of the campaign is “Much Obligated”. Everyone should have a packet in the mail by October 11th and we are planning for November 14th to be “Honor Day” where we receive pledges.

We will be looking for the Leadership Team in the church to step up and show leadership to our congregation in giving and by setting an example. You will be hearing from us before November 14th.

Developing leadership within our laity will be built around “Intentional Discipleship”. This means engaged in intentional giving, intentional worship whether here or remotely, and engaged in some area of mission within our church.

New Business – No new business was brought up.

Associate Pastor Remarks:

Rev. Laura: A few highlights from my report: Our Pathway Classes have go great touching 26 people who are excited and getting involved. We haven't seen the enthusiasm for Bible studies that we have seen in the past. Emily Garner and I visited Pensacola UMC and looked at some ideas they are pursuing around getting our church members together in unity. We will be evaluating these ideas for application in our church. Happy and surprised to see the Wednesday night sessions on UMC101 are going well.

Rev. Ontonio: Very happy to be a part of the church and very excited to see so many new visitors looking for a new church home. Very often told how friendly our church is. If you are sitting next to a person you don't know, please introduce yourself so new people feel the warmth of our church. I have had bumper stickers printed for our church and I ask everyone to proudly put these on your cars. If your neighborhood allows, we have printed yard signs to express your enthusiasm for our church. These are two things we want to do to increase our church outreach.

Rev. Darren closed his comments recruiting for a dishwasher.

Gene Lammers closed the meeting in prayer.