

Fairhope United Methodist Church
Board of Stewards
Regular Meeting - December 9, 2021

Mary Corbitt, Michael Chambliss, 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, Al Earnest, Doug Garner, Wanda Harris, Jane Dolan, Reed Givens, Jenna Hood, Steve Pearson, Linda Smith, Robbie Rux, Mary Finger

All Staff Comments below are supplemental to the written Staff Reports which are attached.

Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Ministries

Children's Ministry – Jenna Hood- Very excited to begin meeting again. PIER and PIER34 wrapped activities on Dec. 1st with a Popcorn and Pajamas party. Sunday School and Children's Church numbers continue to grow. Our Breakfast at the Manger was held Dec. 4th and was great time for all attending. Cecil Christenberry was a fantastic Santa! A Children's Ministry Dream Team has been formed to serve as an advisory/visioning Committee. We eagerly await to see the direction they dream up. Wonderfully Made(a Christian sex education course) will be held in mid-January and Blue Lake Winter Retreat will be held in early February.

Missions/Church Life– Jennifer Myrick -Lots of things have been happening in the World of Missions. **Our Thanksgiving meal** was very beneficial to our community serving over 330 meals to Fairhope and Daphne law enforcement, Meals on Wheels, and Community Café homebound.

We are up to 220+ meals on Fridays for our **Community Café** each week and people are coming back in to eat. We received a \$5000 grant from a local insurance firm and are excited about that. We are now in middle of **Angel Tree** and working with **DHR** providing supplies needed for Foster Care.

Disaster Response efforts continue working to provide support for our friends in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Our **Homeless Outreach** continues working with **Point in Time Count** to reach homeless in Fairhope and surrounding community.

Ecumenical Ministries has reached out to us for help with kitchen facilities while they undergo construction on their building. This is a great partnership we are developing with them to provide assistance for our community. Adoption Agency has reached out to us to use space from time-to-time to meet with families interested in adopting children.

Caring Ministries – Ann Pearson - Many people have come and said that they didn't realize how much they were missed at church. Great statement of support for what we are doing in Caring Ministries. We are finishing up our Christmas deliveries to 735 families. We have mailed out Christmas cards to church friends and families. We are resuming our training class for Stephen Ministry and they will be training for 2 months. We will be commissioning them on February 27th.

Music Ministry – Tom Hood- We are beginning to get our groups rolling again. Gearing up for our Christmas Cantata—with 60 people volunteering to be in the performance. Our hand bell ensemble has been meeting regularly and played in October and will play again in December. We are excited about being able to recruit people to participate in the music program—we haven't been able to do that for almost two years.

Recreation Ministry – Jamie Waldhour – The CLC has been very busy with basketball and pickle ball activities. This is the 14th year that this church has hosted an Upward Basketball League. We have about 200 kids in the 4/5 year old league practicing and playing basketball games. I also work on Live Streaming of services for church. Would appreciate your understanding that from time to time we will have internet interruptions but are striving to minimize as much as possible. The new sound system is coming in and that should be a big help. Would appreciate feedback and constructive criticism.

Trustees Report – Michael Chambliss – Much effort has been done towards the new security system. New cameras are on order and hopefully will be installed in January. LEOs will not be utilized anymore beginning in January. The new camera system will allow us to monitor the whole campus on weekends and during the week.

Boy Scouts Bankruptcy Proceedings – Steve Pearson The Boy Scouts of America organization has filed bankruptcy. As a chartering organization for our Troop here, we have filed a claim to protect us in the event things really get sour. The Boy Scouts' trustees submitted a plan to move the organization forward. As a claimant we were asked to vote on their plan and the Board of Trustees voted "No". The plan, while helping the Boy Scouts organization, it left charter churches such as ours, unprotected. There has been an individual from around the '80s time frame that has filed a claim against our troop here in Fairhope. We are monitoring the situation for any further actions which are taken. We are analyzing our chartering document to require background checks on all individuals in a leadership role in now and in the future. It is a very delicate situation. We will be monitoring all the proceedings as this evolves to protect FHUMC and the people involved. This will work its' way forward. At the end of the day, we want to find ways to stay involved with the Boy Scouts.

Finance Report – Tom Sloan – While our revenue is down substantially (\$141k), but our expenses are down even more (\$215k) which puts us better off than we had projected to be at by (\$74k). This highlights a tremendous job done by our church staff in cutting

expenditures to reflect the times we are in. Based on what we see for November, we expect to be at the same positive variance. December is always the big wild card for revenues and generally comes in about double that of a typical month. But the good news is that we have a very healthy balance sheet going in to the end of the year. We are adequately funded from our balance sheet to positively close out 2021.

Stewardship Campaign – Rev. Darren – Our “Much Obligated” campaign is still very much a work in progress. We have in about 190 pledge cards and these are running about \$300 above last year. The good news is membership is growing and will continue to grow. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so tonight before you leave. It means a lot that our BOS set an example to the rest of the congregation about their commitment to our church. If we can get to about 65% of the last budget that will be a good rebound from the depths we were in due to Covid. If the people who are honoring their pledges now, just turn in their pledge cards we will easily achieve the threshold we are looking for. So please turn in your pledge cards!!!

Staff Parish Relations Committee – Robbie Rux – Nothing new to report.

Associate Pastor Remarks

Rev. Ontonio – Very excited by the energy he sees at church. Our new publication very close to completion of the first edition. Please spread the word to keep your ears to the ground for stories we can share,

Rev. Laura – There are a few things I’m excited to share: 1. The Welcome Dinner had 24 new and interested people in learning about the church. Great Q&A session and the night was very beneficial. Thanks to all that helped put the dinner together. 2. Pathways Class coming up in January. 3. Disciple’s Class will resume on Wednesday nights. Ann Pearson has been doing a fantastic job leading Bible studies. We have about 50 people participating. Plans are to do a different study every other month.

Rev. Darren – I plan to hold a Church Leadership Orientation Dinner with all the Leadership Team for 2022 where we can assimilate new people. We will explore some visioning for 2022 and look at leadership development for where we see things developing. Terri Turner who is President of Alabama/Florida Foundation of the United Methodist Church will be with us at the dinner. She will be staying overnight to meet the next morning with our foundation and endowment team. We are taking a break on Wednesday nights for the holidays. We will be picking up our study of homosexuality and the scriptures with the last class on a reconsideration of the Sodom and Gomorrah story and its relevance.