

Friendswood Methodist Church
Board of Stewards Minutes
February 18, 2024

Members present: Rev. Jim Bass, Ivo Damman, Lynn Dodson, Jason Fletcher, Mary Gillespie, Dave Hergert, Kristine Houtman, Peter Hurt, James Mainer, Brian Roark, Nadine Watson, Alan Wilson, Linda Zeller

Associates present: Anita Griffith, Rev. Howard Huhn, Rev. Sam McRae, Suzanne Vachon

Call to Order: Kristine Houtman, chair

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Linda Zeller

Financials: Suzanne Vachon, finance director

- Each member and associate of the Board receives a copy of all financials. These are reviewed and a summary is presented at each meeting by Suzanne Vachon. Detailed copies of these can be found in the Board of Stewards notebook kept in the Administrative Assistant's office or with any Board member.
- The final December 2023 financial statements were presented, as they had only been presented in draft form in January, due to waiting to receive the final endowment statement for the year 2023. After a short explanation on the December 2023 financials Ivo Damman made a **Motion** to accept the financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Peter Hurt. The motion passed by a verbal vote.
- The January 2024 financials were presented. The income statement along with the balance sheet was presented. Along with these Suzanne and James Mainer discussed what will be looked at monthly as a Trigger Test. No actions were triggered in January. Mary Gillespie made a **Motion** to accept the January financials as presented. Brian Roark seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a verbal vote.
- While discussing financials it was brought to the Board's attention that Nadine has received calls from members about their giving statements. They do not understand why some items on their statements are non-deductible. Examples are giving from their IRAs and, also, not getting credit on their giving statement for gift cards they have given to the church. Suzanne stated that she will happily discuss this with any one and to encourage people with questions to call her. James mentioned that many ways have been used to try to communicate financial information to the congregation. A plan is being worked on to get financial information out to the congregation quarterly.

Celebrate Worship/Music Ministry: Chris Aleman, worship leader

- Chris, being new in this position, shared his organization and vision plans for the Celebrate Ministry.
- Recruiting for the Celebrate team is of high importance. He would love to see more people in attendance and more energy among the congregation.
- Chris has visions of a Saturday modern contemporary service held in Wesley Hall, a coffee house ministry, and providing scholarships and internships. He would like to offer more opportunities for the youth to become involved in leading worship.
- Chris discussed a software program that would help with Celebrate. He is going to fully investigate what all it does and how it can be used with our worship team.

Facilities: Howard Huhn

- Taking a church inventory has been discussed in the past. Howard stated that the inventory will be done this summer while the facilities are not as busy and Bright Beginnings is not in session.
- There was a roof leak in the foyer that a water test was done on to determine the source of the leak. This is still being evaluated.
- The exterior sprinkler heads are now functioning and the city says they cannot be removed. The plan is to have them covered during extreme cold weather.
- Several sign companies have been contacted about our street signs and no one will work on updating them. They have all suggested they just be replaced.

Open Board Positions:

- Vice-chair of Finance: Dave Hergert and Vice-chair of SPR: Nadine Watson. Alan Wilson made a **Motion** to elect these persons for these positions. Lynn Dodson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.
- It was discussed that the Board needed a representative to sit on the Endowment Committee. Mary Gillespie was nominated for this position. A **Motion** was made by Dave Hergert to accept Mary as the Endowment Committee rep. This was seconded by Nadine Watson and the motion was passed by a verbal vote.

Minutes from January 21, 2024 Meeting: Anita Griffith

- The minutes had been emailed out at an earlier date and were available at the meeting. After reviewing the minutes, Peter Hurt made a **Motion** to accept the minutes as written. Lynn Dodson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.

Student Director Staffing: Jim Bass and Sam McRae

- The job description is being tweaked and will be posted online.
- Hope to have candidates to be presented by mid-March.
- Will be looking at schools to draw the candidates from.
- Realize that it is important to have a female lead within the ministry.
- Although it was discussed earlier to have a student representative on the Board this has been put on hold for the moment.

Capital Campaign: Jim Bass

- The campaign is in the organizational phase – “Freedom for the Future” based on Romans 13:8.
- The campaign will be introduced to the congregation on March 3.

Costa Rica: Sam McRae

- Sam will be traveling to Costa Rica with a team of doctors to work in a mission’s clinic. Sam has been collecting eye glasses over the past few weeks to take on the trip.

**Reminder that the Team Vision Meeting is on Saturday, March 2 at 9 am in Wesley Hall.
Next Board Meeting is Sunday, March 17.**

Closing Prayer: Jim Bass