

Friendswood Methodist Church  
Board of Stewards Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2024

**Board Members Present:** Rev. Jim Bass, Ivo Damman, Lynn Dodson, Jason Fletcher, Mary Gillespie, David Hergert, Kristine Houtman (online), Peter Hurt, James Mainer, Brian Roark, Kenny Sanders, Nadine Watson, Alan Wilson, Linda Zeller (online)

**Board Associates present:** Anita Griffith (Administrative Assistant), Rev. Howard Huhn, Brandi Jo Smith (Communications), Suzanne Vachon (Finance)

**Call to Order:** Peter Hurt, Vice-chair

**Devotional/Prayer:** Alan Wilson

**Introduction of Director of Communications:** Howard Huhn

- Howard introduced Brandi Jo and gave a few details of what her role would be as related to the staff and the church as a whole.
- Brandi Jo thanked everyone for their warm welcome. She spoke of helping the staff to organize their ministries communication needs. She faces the challenge of developing a way to communicate with all ages of the church community. She indicated that she is ready for the challenge and welcomed any ideas that the Board may have to accomplish this need.

**Finance Report:** Suzanne Vachon

- The Contribution Income for June totaled 182k.
- The Monthly Operating Expenses totaled \$199k. There were no significant unexpected expenses. Expenses are currently running 4% below budget.
- The Building Loan contributions totaled \$30.6k for the month.
- The Freedom for the Future loan income totaled \$51.4k for the month.
- The balance remaining on the building loan (\$1.25m on June 30) will be lowered by a \$300k payment in July.
- The disaffiliation loan of \$314k on June 30 will be paid off in July.
- The Freedom for the Future pledges are totaling just under \$2m. We have received \$889k to date.
- We have not hit the first trigger in the monthly financial trigger test.
- More financial details can be located in the Board of Stewards notebook in the Administrative Assistant's office.
- Nadine Watson commented that there are persons in her Sunday school class that have questions on the financials. Kristine and James have offered to visit Sunday school classes to try and answer any questions. Some may need to be referred to Suzanne. Kristine will try to visit Nadine's class on July 28.
- It is time to start budget work for 2025. Information will be sent out to the ministries by August 1. A collection of this information will be given to Finance by September and a budget draft will, hopefully, be ready by October.
- A **Motion** was made by Alan Wilson to accept the May Financials as presented. Ivo Damman seconded the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.
- A **Motion** was made by Brian Roark to accept the June Financials as presented. Nadine Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.

**Minutes from May 19, 2024:** Anita Griffith

- A **Motion** was made by Mary Gillespie to accept the May 19 minutes as presented. Jason Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.

**Staff/Parish Relations (SPR):** Linda Zeller

- The pastors' evaluation information will be emailed out to the Board. All responses will go only to Linda. She and Kristine will meet after Linda has summarized the responses. All this is scheduled to be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August.
- The evaluation of the staff is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

**Moving Single Board Model to Traditional Council/Committees:** Jim Bass

- Jim voiced that he would like to return to the Traditional Council and Committees. He sees the wisdom of reverting back to the former structure. He believes the Board structure we now have works better in smaller churches. The former structure involves more persons in leadership. The nominating committee would bring forth names for the Council and Committees. This would mean, as a first step, that our present nominating committee would need to be enlarged. All of this will need to go before a Church Conference for approval. For the August meeting Jim will present a plan/road map so everyone can have a clear picture of how this will work.

**Safety Update:** Brian Roark

- Brian asked that the Board read through two handouts that he provided and bring any comments or questions to the next meeting.
- Brian is in the process of finding leadership for the "Safety Team". He has some good leads but would welcome any additional suggestions.
- Grant money is still available to help with the costs of updating safety procedures. This is continuing to be looked into.

**Facilities:** Howard Huhn

- Since Hurricane Beryl, all repaired are almost complete. There was very little damage done to the church. Fallen trees are being cleared. In the Worship Center the fire suppression system has been repaired and carpet tiles in Jim's green room and Chris Aleman's office have been dried and reset. One broken window in A119/120 is being replaced.

**GMC Convening General Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica (September 20 - 26):** Jim Bass

- The theme is "So the World Will Know".
- The focus will be placed on evangelism around the world.

**Church Conference Date:** Jim Bass

- December 15 has been put on hold until Jim can get a presiding elder secured.

**Bright Beginnings:** Howard Huhn

- Bright Beginnings would like to install a sun sail over the playground but is having problems with the City getting it approved. The City is saying that the sail needs to be rated for category 4 hurricane winds. Sun sails are not rated this high. Howard was asking if anyone had any contacts on Planning and Zoning that may be able to help clarify this issue.

**Pastor's Appreciation Month:** Linda Zeller

- Linda reported that October is Pastor's Appreciation month and she is looking for suggestions of ways to honor our pastors. She would like the congregation to be involved.

**Prayer Concerns** were shared.

**Closing Prayer**