

**Friendswood Methodist Church  
Board of Stewards Minutes  
August 18, 2024**

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

**Board Associates Present:** Anita Griffith, Rev. Sam McRae, Brandi Jo Smith, Suzanne Vachon

**Call to Order:** Kristine Houtman, chair

**Opening Prayer and Devotional:** Mary Gillespie

**Minutes from July 21, 2024:** Anita Griffith

- A **Motion** was made by David Hergert to accept the July 21 minutes as presented. Nadine Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.

**Finance Report:** Suzanne Vachon

- At the end of July we are breaking even.
- July General Fund contributions totaled \$178k.
- There were no significant unexpected expenses in July. Expenses for the month totaled \$224k.
- Operating cash balance decreased slightly to \$306k. This is still a strong cash position for the church.
- We made a \$300,000 payment on the building debt in July.
- We made the final payment on the Disaffiliation Loan with the payment of \$314k. The debt is now eliminated.
- The Freedom for the Future pledges now total \$2.06m and we have received \$943k to date.
- A **Motion** was made by Mary Gillespie to accept the July financials. This was seconded by Peter Hurt. The motion passed by a verbal vote.
- Complete financial reports can be found in the Board of Stewards notebook located in the Administrative Assistant's office or the Finance office.
- Signage has not yet been budgeted, will go into next year's budget.
- The Good News Sunday School Class was visited to answer any questions on financials.

**Designated Fund Close-out:** Sam McRae

- Sam asked that the Alongside the Fatherless designated fund be dispersed to other funds since this ministry no longer has leadership.
- Upon Sam's recommendation, a **Motion** was made by Linda Zeller to send \$2,500 to an orphanage in Costa Rica that we supported last year. Lynn Dodson seconded this motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.
- Upon Sam's recommendation, a **Motion** was made by Mary Gillespie to transfer \$3,700 to Student Ministry to help pay for new flooring in the student annex area and to close out the designated account of Alongside the Fatherless. This was seconded by David Hergert. The motion was passed by a verbal vote.
- The Alongside the Fatherless designated account will be closed.

**Communications:** Brandi Jo Smith

- Brandi Jo shared items she has been working on such as new events page, social media and the need to engage more members, fixing broken links, updating the website, 2024 Team Calendar, etc.

**SPR Update:** Linda Zeller

- Linda will send out pastor evaluation forms again.
- Pastor Appreciation Month is October. Tables will be set up in the foyer for the congregation to be able to write notes to each pastor.
- The reception for Lee Ann Love is being planned but no date has been set. She is leaving at the end of the year and with the holidays the reception may move into January 2025.

**Safety Team Update:** Brian Roark

- Angela Johnson is writing a grant proposal which is due by December 1.
- The team is hoping to have a police officer on site for four hours on Sundays next year but need to look at budgeting.
- Brian is hoping to have a Safety Team meeting the week of Thanksgiving.
- David Hergert is taking a 20 hour safety class.
- We need to focus on no cost items right now.

**Single Board Model:** Jim Bass

- The Board received copies of the Church Council Proposal Draft from Jim.
- No action will be taken on this today.
- Jim encouraged everyone to take this home and read through it and form any questions for clarification.

**Costa Rica GMC Conference:** Jim Bass

- The church is accepting money for delegate expenses. Some delegates from other countries do not have the funds for travel, etc.
- Jim will leave on Wednesday, September 18 for Costa Rica.

**Acton Items:** Ivo Damman

- Ivo encouraged everyone to review the list of Action Items that he emailed out.

**Church Conference and Annual Report presentation:** Kristine Houtman

- Kristine asked for help to compile these reports. Mary Gillespie and James Mainer volunteered.

**Other Business:**

- Kenny Sanders came in late after attending the Student Ministry Visioning meeting. Confirmation classes are scheduled to begin September 8. Kenny mentioned that his son was interested in exploring the possibility of having vending machines at the church. These would be machines that he would manage. Considering this was a new item with no formal proposal it was tabled for now.

**Adjournment:** Kristine Houtman