

Board of Stewards Minutes
Friendswood Methodist Church
October 2, 2024

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

Associate Members present: Anita Griffith, Brandi Jo Smith, Suzanne Vachon

Call to Order: Kristine Houtman, chair

Devotional/Prayer: James Mainer

Update on General Conference: Jim Bass

- The Holy Spirit was present in Costa Rica at the Conference with lots of tears of joy.
- Delegates approved a plan to hold the 2026 General Conference at a central African location. A specific location will be announced once plans are finalized.
- Following the 2026 Conference the General Conference will be held every six years.
- Delegates voted to change the Global Methodist Church's mission statement and adopt a new vision statement.

August Financials: Suzanne Vachon

- Handouts
- Our contribution income for August totaled \$149k. This was our second lowest month of giving of the past 26 months although September was \$192k which is our strongest month of giving so far this year.
- Our operating expenses totaled \$214k with no significant unexpected expenses. Expenses are running 4% below budget.
- Building loan income totaled \$8.2k for the month.
- Freedom for the Future income totaled \$68.7k for the month.
- With an August and September payment on building debt, our balance due is just under \$500k.
- We have received 49% of the total amount pledged for Freedom for the Future.
- We have not hit a financial trigger.
- Alan Wilson made a **Motion** to accept the August financials as reported. Mary Gillespie seconded this motion. The financials were accepted by a verbal vote.

August 18 Minutes: Anita Griffith

- The minutes were emailed out in advance of the meeting and copies were available at the meeting.
- Mary Gillespie made a **Motion** that the minutes be accepted as presented. David Hergert seconded this motion. The motion was accepted by a verbal vote.

SPR Report: Linda Zeller

- Pastor Appreciation is the month of October. Tables will be in the foyer for the congregation to write notes to each of the pastors. Anita will take care of being sure the tables are set and note cards and pens are available. Linda will provide boxes for collecting the notes. Members of the Board will be asked to man the tables each Sunday in October. Please wear name badge.
- Howard will have his exit interview and evaluation on Tuesday, October 8. Mary Arnold and Debbie Bass are planning a reception for Howard and family for Sunday, October 20.
- Jim and Sam will have their evaluations before the end of November.

- There will be a meeting on October 9 to discuss re-assignment of pastors' duties.
- Amy Brown and Mary Arnold are planning the reception for Lee Ann Love. The date is not yet firm. Jim is scheduling interviews for Lee Ann's position. Jason Fletcher from the Board will be on the search committee.

Governing Board Changes: Jim Bass

- Governing changes will be presented at the Church Conference in December. Hoping to vote to adopt these changes in principle for an organizational plan that changes from a Board of Stewards to a committee based organization (more the way it was before the Board of Stewards was formed).
- The formation of the committees and choosing committee members will take place over 2025.
- The Nominating Committee will need to be expanded ASAP.
- Governing documents will have to be re-written and approved.

Annual Report to Congregation: Kristine Houtman

- Kristine will write report with the help of Mary Gillespie and James Mainer. This may be held until January.

Signage: Brandi Jo Smith & Jason Fletcher

- Mock-ups of the sign were handed out for review.
- Comet Signs gave a proposal of just under \$20,000 for the two internally illuminated signs (one at entrance off FM 518 and one at the entrance off FM 2351).
- It was decided that the signs would have the name of the church with the Global logo and stating "A Global Methodist Church". No address, phone number, or web address.
- Jason will handle the contract with Comet Signs.

New Business

- Bright Beginnings would like to hold a Fun Run on the church property to help with the cost of the playground cover. Linda Zeller made a **Motion** to approve this. Nadine Watson seconded the motion. The Board accepted this motion with a verbal vote.
- The flooring in the Wesley Hall annex has been completed. Kingdom can move back into the area.
- Jim and Trustees reps need to meet to discuss any updates needed for the parsonage and how this could impact the 2025 budget.

Review of Action Items: Ivo Damman

- Ivo emailed Action Items to Board members for review and to be acted on.

Communications Report: Brandi Jo Smith

- Brandi Jo is working on changes in how to get information out. This includes the website and bulletins. She is trying to reach the multitudes.

Closing Prayer: Jim Bass

Adjourn: Kristine Houtman