

Board of Stewards Minutes
Friendswood Methodist Church
October 30, 2024 6:30 pm Parlor

Steward Members present: Rev. Jim Bass, Ivo Damman, Lynn Dodson, Jason Fletcher, Mary Gillespie, Kristine Houtman, James Mainer, Brian Roark, Kenny Sanders, Nadine Watson, Linda Zeller

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

Call to Order: Kristine Houtman, chair

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Jason Fletcher

Financial Report: Suzanne Vachon

- Financials were voted on in advance by email. Financials were approved by an email vote.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Vote: Anita Griffith

- Copies of the October 2, 2025 minutes were provided at the meeting (also, had been previously emailed). Mary Gillespie made a **Motion** to accept the minutes as presented. James Mainer seconded the motion. The motion carried by a verbal vote.

Budget Draft: James Mainer and Suzanne Vachon

- We are not anticipating an increase in giving in 2025 unless a push is put on contributions.
- Employee benefits are being discussed and a task force will be created to look at several plans. Not all employees will take advantage of this offer. It is important that all employees are treated the same.
- The parsonage needs some updates but these can be done over a three-year period.
- An administrative realignment will be happening in March, 2025 which will impact the budget. This will be discussed in an executive session after the current meeting.
- A 2025 Budget Highlights handout goes into more detail about what the budget will look like for next year. This can be found with the minutes in the BOS notebook in the Admin Office.

Annual Church Conference: Kristine Houtman

- The Church Conference will be held on Sunday, December 8 following the 11 am service.
- An Annual Report handout will be developed for the congregation. Kristine and Brandi Jo are working on this. James and Mary have offered their help.
- A high level budget handout is being discussed.
- The governing model change will be presented. This will be developed through 2025 and will be voted on at the 2025 Annual Church Conference. The

Nominations Committee will be increased first to be able to provide persons for the committees being developed.

- A Town Hall meeting will be held on Sunday, December 1 in Wesley Hall. Jim will answer any questions about the formation of the new governing model and whatever other questions may be asked.

Staffing Updates: Rev Jim Bass

- Jim met with a prospect for the Children's and Family Ministry position. He was pleased and reported she seems like a good fit.

New Business:

- The church received an email from a Girl Scout Cadette working on her Silver Award. She would like to have a textile recycling bin put on the property. There were questions about how often it would be emptied, who to call if it is full before the collection time, where to place it, etc. It was decided that more information needs to be gathered before a decision can be made.
- Linda Zeller and SPR reps had an exit interview with Rev. Howard Huhn. For the moment there is no plan to replace Howard. It was mentioned that it would be nice to have a female pastor on staff.
- Brandi Jo and Jason Fletcher handed out sign choices. After reviewing the choices it came down to two that everyone would be happy with. It was decided that Jim and Brandi Jo could make the final decision.

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

After Adjournment the meeting went into Executive Session.

Minutes submitted by Anita Griffith 11/13/2024

Addition to Minutes (outside of meeting) Monday, November 11, 2024

- A **Motion** by email was made by Kristine Houtman to extend an offer to Melanie Arreaga for the position of Children's Director (Lee Ann Love is leaving in December, 2024). The motion was seconded. Twelve responses voted to accept this motion. There were two non-responses. The motion passed.