



Minutes of Board of Stewards Meeting November 2024

Date: Sunday November 17 2024

Location: Parlor

Meeting Type: Board Meeting

Members Present:

Rev. Jim Bass, Kristine Houtman, Mary Gillespie, Jason Fletcher, Dave Hergert, Lynn Dodson, Linda Zeller, Alan Wilson, James Mainer

Members Absent:

Peter Hurt, Brian Roark, Kenny Sanders, Nadine Watson

Staff Present:

Rev. Sam McRae, Suzanne Vachon, Dee Ann Emberton, Brandi Jo Smith

Call to Order: By James Mainer at 12:30 with a Quorum (over 50% of Board of Stewards) present

Opening Prayer: Linda Zeller by absence of Brian Roark

Bright Beginnings Report:

Dee Ann provided a comprehensive report on the status of Bright Beginnings. There are 209 students over 20 classes with 52 staff members. There is a slight deficit in teacher pay as well as a shortage of teachers due to the extra individual help needed for special needs children. This might get resolved next year. Highlights are the opening of a gross motor lab, the Sun sails that have finally been placed over the playground and a fundraiser for the playground rubber that is in progress. Safety concern; the door at the parking lot side of the Family Life Center is sometimes opened by key instead of key card. This results in the door remaining unlocked overnight. It is not clear who has a hard copy key. There is no camera on that door.

- Side door (key) assessment will become an item for the safety team.

Minutes of meeting October 30:

Copies of the October 30 meeting were sent out by email and provided at the meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes: Mary Gillespie

Second: Linda Zeller.

The motion carried by verbal vote

Finance Committee:

Copies of the October financial results were sent out by email and provided at the meeting.

October giving was below average, if this trend continues, we will end up 12% behind budget. On the rolling 12 months that translates to \$11000.- The board thinks this a result of Sunday attendance being down by 7% and a very generous capital campaign. The Board was aware the 2024 budget would be a stretch, the 2025 budget has been adjusted down. The corona virus tax credit estimate will be taken off the receivables, the IRS has made no payments in a year and it is not likely those payments will ever be received. The investigation on providing benefits is still in progress, several options are being considered but more information is required.

- Finance Director has statistics of past attendance which will be sent out to the board in order to track attendance trend
- The connection team will make a list of members who have not attended in a while so we can reach out to them by phone. Alan Wilson will be the lead on this task



Minutes of Board of Stewards Meeting November 2024

Motion to approve October finances: Alan Wilson

Second: Dave Hergert

The motion carried by verbal vote

The budget has been set and will be provided at the Annual Conference. Although in the Single Board model the Board may set the annual budget, the tradition at Friendswood Methodist is to present the budget to the congregation at the Annual conference for final approval. For good measure the Board has voted on the budget in order to remain in compliance with the Single Governing Board document.

Motion to approve the budget: Mary Gillespie

Second: Jason Fletcher

The motion carried by verbal vote

SPR Committee:

Pastor evaluations have completed, Staff evaluations are in progress. It is recommended by SPR to complete the staff evaluations in August instead of November, so the finance committee has time to adjust the budget when required. Melanie Arreaga has accepted the new children's ministry position, an announcement will be made on November 21st. The search for a celebrate leader continues. Once a candidate is actively pursued, however if said person falls through the job will be posted. An offer from a former worship leader has been received to fill the gap as of January 2025 if required.

- Chris will leave November 24th, SPR will set up an exit interview
- All recent changes have not been update in the organizational chart, Linda Zeller will make the updates

Facilities Committee (Trustees):

The new monument signs have been ordered and are scheduled to be in place mid-january. A report was sent out regarding the status of the parsonage, a few updates will have to be made in 2025 which has been included in the budget. The new chiller plant will arrive end December, depending on the weather we may have to move one more Sunday into Wesley Hall in order to accommodate the installation.

Some of the signage on campus still states 'United' Methodist. This will be gradually phased out.

Shelbynext:

The transition from the old to the new system has been completed. Not all members were moved over, only the processing, baptized and constituent members have been moved. We currently count 1423 presiding members: 730 families, 225 baptized members and 105 constituent members. This does not affect the apportionment to the GMC since that number is not based on membership, but on income instead.

- Tracy Beazley will take a class to lean the details of the program and will be put in charge to take on the task of maintaining the system

Minutes of Board of Stewards Meeting November 2024

Hymnals:

A very generous anonymous donation was received to purchase new hymnals for the sanctuary, which translates to 446 hymnals. The United Methodist Hymnals will be replaced by the Great Redeemers Praise hymnals on Sunday November 24th. Any designated UMC hymnals will be made available to the respective families. The Board has expressed its gratitude for the donation, and the proposed hymnal drive that was schedule for January has been cancelled.

Town hall:

The town hall meeting to discuss the proposal for the Council set up as described in the book of discipline has been set for December 1st. Jim will answer any questions regarding this set up during that time.

Church conference:

The date for the church conference has been set for December 8 2024. Brandi Jo is working on the completion of the annual report, any feedback from ministries that do not meet the deadline will be removed from the update.

- The agenda for the Church conference will be produced by James Mainer and Kristine
- The nominations committee has increased to 9 members, pending approval of the congregation, so that the names can be proposed during the church conference

Pastoral updates:

Rev. Sam made the Board aware that the Trinity Conference allows for a 3 month sabbatical after 6 years of appointment. Sam has indicated interest in such a sabbatical. Rev. Jim has indicated no interest at this time. When such an sabbatical is taken, the church will have to pay for the salary of an interim clergy when required. This may be taken in consideration into the 2026 budget

Rev. Jim has prepared to have one service the Sunday after Christmas (December 29) which would be a hymnal-sing service and one service on January 5th which is the Covenant renewal service.

Director of communications:

A redesign of the connection cards as well as the welcome brochure is in progress.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Girl Scout Project Request:

A request for a clothing recycling container as part of a girl scout project was received. This container would be part of a for-profit business. A concern was voiced that such container and its overflow would likely clutter the campus.

Motion to decline the request: Mary Gillespie

Second: Kristine Houtman

The motion to decline the request was made by verbal vote

- Kristine will contact Suzanne Vachon to let her know of the outcome of the vote

Meeting adjourned:

At 14:40 the meeting was adjourned.