

McPherson FUMC Leadership Board
Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2023

The FUMC Leadership Board met on November 15, 2023, with the following members present:

- Voting: Phil Durr, Jessica Ekholm, Enrique Barreiro, Joanna Mason, Clarene Smyres, Jim Oliver, Shawna Shafer, Manelia Stephenson
- Non-voting: Pastor Emily Cannon, Deacon Jeanne Koontz, Jay Warner, Sandy Hunter

Opening Prayer & Spiritual Formation – Clarene Smyres

- Scriptures referenced were Luke 21:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

Leadership Equipping – led by Enrique

- Decision on quorum
 - Enrique noted that the Leadership Board has not specified how many voting members must be present in order for a meeting to start. We have 9 voting members. The guiding principles will be updated to reflect that 5 voting members are a quorum.
- Making time to ensure understanding
 - Enrique verified in the meeting that board members are receiving meeting packets enough in advance to review the materials prior to the meeting.
 - He communicated that board members are welcome to ask questions to clarify understanding, both at meetings and by contacting report providers before the meeting.
- Leadership Board's role in supporting and encouraging clergy
 - It was agreed to try an experiment for the first several months next year. Members of the board will meet with Emily and Jeanne at least every other month. About once a quarter, the Leadership Board agenda will include time for Emily and Jeanne to share "How is it with your soul".
- Update on nominations for next year's board members
 - Joanna, who will complete her 1-year term in December, will move to the Building Maintenance ministry team, which she feels will be a better fit for her gifts.
 - Joel, who will complete his 1-year term, has decided to step back from leadership to focus on his family and career.
 - Jay will step back from the Lay Leader role. He will join the Building Maintenance team and continue as a Lay Servant (preaching).
 - Judy Sawyer, who leads the Prayer Ministry team and is on the Congregational Care team, has agreed to be the Lay Leader.
 - Maynard Lewis is nominated to fill one of the open Leadership Board voting member seats.
 - The nominations committee is waiting for a response from 1 more person to fill the last seat. They have another person in mind if the first choice says no.
 - Nominations will be presented for approval at the charge conference.
- Intentional Leadership Board Equipping
 - Outcomes sub-team was asked to recommend a goal for intentional Leadership Board equipping.

Packet & Consent Items

- The packet does not include financial reports this month since the Leadership Board is meeting a week earlier than normal and the reports were not available at the time the packet was sent out. We'll have the reports next month.

- Review of Visitors – Pastor Emily
 - We have had several visitors in the past month, especially for All Saints Sunday. One of our newer attendees has joined the praise team.
 - Deacon Jeanne plans to have another session of Pizza with the Pastors in early 2024. The Leadership Board recommended introducing the Serve Book during those events to help newcomers find ways to plug in.

Goal Review & Accountability

- The Outcomes sub-team is scheduled to meet on November 27 and 28 to continue defining outcomes and goals from our October retreat.
- The Building Manager sub-team is planning to meet before December to look at how to handle/allocate Danny O’Dell’s responsibilities. Their recommendations will feed into the 2024 budget since the building manager was a paid position in the past.
- Emily requested a sub-team to do a preliminary review of the budget prior to its presentation to the Leadership Board in December.
- Jeanne presented a list of ministry teams and the Serve Book for feedback. The Leadership Board members affirmed the new format.

Strategic Work

- These items are in preparation for the annual charge conference on November 29th, at 7 pm, our superintendent is Jenny Collins the Topeka DS.
- The four items of business for the Leadership Board in preparation for the annual conference are listed in bold below.
 - Review & Discuss Church Conference Wesleyan Mission Form
 - We reviewed the Wesleyan Mission form, which focuses on 4 areas of our ministry (Know God, Proclaim Christ, Serve Others, and Seek Justice). The board appreciated the thought Jeanne and Emily put into drafting the responses and added a few items. One of our joys is strong giving to operations, designated ministries (servant outreach, memorials, etc.), and connectional ministries (over \$11,000 to Africa University, UMCOR, and other United Methodist ministries). We acknowledged that the 3 issues listed accurately reflect our church, especially Grief and Culture Change.
 - Discuss Clergy Compensation for Pastor Emily and Deacon Jeanne
 - Discuss Lay Servant Continuation for Jay Warner and Amanda Weber
 - Discuss Clergy Appointment Request for Pastor Emily
 - The Leadership Board went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing and completing the clergy appointment request form as required.

Adjourned around 8:20 pm

Sandy Hunter, acting secretary, with thanks to Manelia Stephenson for taking minutes during the executive session.

Charge Conference Date: November 29, 2023, at 7 pm

All Leadership Board members are encouraged to attend. Members are welcome.

Next Meeting Date: December 20, 2023 at 6 pm