



HAYGOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Faith Classroom

Attendees: Mike Fogle (Leadership Board Chair), Mike LaRock (Lay Leader), Pastor Beth Givens (Senior Pastor), Agnes Smith, Bill Slingerland, Sharon Jenkins, Kennis Sigmon, Joe Ford, Jennifer Young, Phyllis Porter, Ceska Tripoli, and Christie Carlson.

Absent - Denise Becker, Rachel Stone, Austin Grau

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Mike Fogle (MF) began the regular Haygood United Methodist Church (HUMC) Leadership Board (LB) meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Spiritual Formation and Prayer

Sharon Jenkins (SJ) provided the spiritual formation. She said that songs are very important to her because she cannot always put her feelings into words. SJ mentioned an episode from The Chosen, Season 1. In the series, Nicodemus could not heal Mary. After meeting Jesus, Mary says "I was one way and now I am different, and the thing that happened in between was him." Sharon played the song "The In Between" by Matt Maher for the group and then closed spiritual formation with prayer.

Leadership Equipping – Discipleship in the New Expedition

Pastor Beth (PB) opened with discussing Section II regarding what discipleship looks like. It is how we live and not necessarily all that we know. It is about who you are.

PB provided the LB's list of attributes for disciples at Haygood including:

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Servant heart | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to serve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accepting of others | <input type="checkbox"/> Selfless |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seeker | <input type="checkbox"/> Not in it for the glory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Authenticity |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Lives in HIS Word |

The list was about actions as a disciple and not knowledge. Jesus said "come follow me" which is belonging to the body. Jesus will show us how to become. Fishing for people is when we go out and bless the world. She asked the LB to talk in small groups about how we are belonging, becoming, and blessing.

Agnes Smith (AS) shared that collectively her group was struggling with how to bless the world, and individually we were trying to get over how to equip the world when we were still works in progress. PB responded saying that discipleship is a process, a sanctification. It is not "been saved" but "being saved."

PB advised the LB that the discussion for the next meeting will focus on governance and mobilization, and what does this look like as far as how we are mobilizing people as disciples? PB will start meeting with Reverends Amanda Webber and Stephanie Parker, talking through what discipleship looks like in their congregations.

Vital Signs

Vital sign information was provided in the leadership board packet including attendance, revenue and expenses, and food pantry visits and expenses.

PB opened discussion on vital signs and provided updates on several items.

The packet included comparative assessment of worship attendance, and it was noted that the normal "low Sunday" after Easter was unexpectedly well attended.

She mentioned a note from Edie stating that revenue was down significantly over the previous two months. PB compared the revenue to the prior year for the same period and revenue is still around \$23,000 more than last year. PB asked the LB to take notice of the significant variances in revenue flow.

According to the website analytics, the worship page surpassed the Preschool page in site visits. Easter and Journey to Easter could have increased the worship page visits.

Marsha provided the Food Pantry data today. The books passed two years of audits.

PB updated the LB with new members joining in April and details of visitors that have been regularly coming to the church.

PB said that ten young women are enrolled in confirmation class. June 4th is Confirmation Sunday.

Joe Ford (JF) asked about the frequency of the church audit. Mike LaRock (ML) responded that the church has an annual audit. PB added that the audit must be filed with the charge conference every year. The auditor is external to the church. The church's audit should be out soon. ML said that any groups that have funds should have regular audits every year and that the audits should be filed with the church office.

ML asked about the response back from the bulk mailing. PB stated that Cheri has been keeping the pledge cards and she is hoping to get with her to analyze them to share the results in May. Several people in the church did not get the bulk mailing.

Consent Package

Mike Fogle asked the LB to take the week to look at the packet and consent agenda and to send emails with questions. PB mentioned that the consent packet included a report from Marie Porter about the "Park after Dark" opportunity for the church.

Generative and Strategic Work

Consensus on Chapel Repairs

MF opened a discussion on Chapel Repairs and said that the group has extensively talked about the repairs over the last several months. He requested a decision from the LB for the next step. ML added that the more refined estimate did not show any changes to cost estimates.

JF asked if we wanted to put \$19,000 into something that we may have to come back to in one to two years after the capital campaign. ML added that the bigger question is where does the Chapel fit into the future of the church and noted that repairs would allow time to have the Retreat and talk more about it. He also said that a capital campaign typically has 3–5-years of pledges before the money is available.

PB reminded the group that we may not emerge from the Retreat with a clear vision about the Chapel. We should emerge with more clarity, and we may decide that we need another strategic planning process. Bill Slingerland (BS) noted that a strategic planning process was not the responsibility of the LB. PB said that we would not be ready for a capital campaign until at least Fall 2024.

MF stated that he was certain that he was told that the repairs would give us approximately five to seven years until major repair work or decisions needed to be made.

Kennis Sigmon (KS) said that he has been looking at it as if we do not do the minimum repairs now, when we start to do something, we may regret not doing the repairs because it is costing us more later.

PB mentioned Jennifer Young's previous comment about the cost of the repairs. Jennifer Young (JY) reiterated that the cost of the repairs is a small percentage of what they are asking for the whole rehab. She added that at this time, the overall project is too big for everyone to comfortably agree on.

Phyllis Porter (PP) stated that people have their hearts wrapped around the Chapel and that we needed to make sure that we have the right people on the committee to think logically, and with their hearts for the next steps.

ML said that the PHAT team's role is to align facilities with the church. PB added that there is an abundance of possibilities, and it is important to do the vision work.

SJ wanted to confirm that the money for the repairs is from the endowment fund. ML said that was correct and all that was needed was to submit a form to request that the money is sent to the church. If the money is not spent on the Chapel, it must be given back to the foundation.

PB recommended that the decision be shared at the Town Hall and then Sonny could be notified after the congregation was aware. This allows the congregation to know that the endowment will be used for repairs before they begin.

ML reminded the LB that is their responsibility to make this decision in their roles as trustees and mentioned that the LB made the decision on the \$45,000 parking lot repair.

It was agreed upon by the LB to notify Sonny to contact Hoy and that signatures would be completed after the Town Hall meeting. This would allow for transparency with the congregation.

Town Hall Meeting – Topics to Share

MF opened discussion on Town Hall Meeting topics.

Budget

The decision was made to roll some items from the State of the Church into the Town Hall meeting. This will include last year's financial results and introduce the narrative budget for the current year.

Door Security Update

JF provided an update on the door security system and said that the doors were not unlocking with phones credentials, so we have elected to go with physical fobs. Door remediation is expected to be completed next week and then Security One can complete the final work. He is hopeful that we will be able to report by the Town Hall meeting that most of the work is completed.

Disaffiliation

ML asked if we wanted to talk about disaffiliation since it came up again. PB said that we need to include that the LB has discussed this topic several times and we will remain United Methodist. Additional information could be published in the Beacon so that the congregation could follow accurate, real news about the United Methodist Church. ML added that there is confusion about people thinking that we must vote on this when a vote is not required to stay in the United Methodist Church.

Bill Slingerland added that we should not fear the conversation and that there was very little discussion about this topic in this district.

Staffing Changes

PB said that we will inform the congregation about the team working on staffing. After the Town Hall meeting, there will be a transition to celebrate Lori.

Town Hall topics will include:

- Last Year's Financials and this year's narrative budget
- Chapel Repair Decision
- Door Update
- Staffing Update
- Haygood United Methodist Church will remain United Methodist
- Ministry Audit and the purpose
- August LB Retreat

PB will prepare a handout so that people can take it home with them.

Agnes asked about the video option and PB replied that we needed a videographer. ML added that instead of doing the state of the church video, the topics will be covered at the Town Hall meeting.

Open Floor Topics

ML told the LB that the ASP team will be going to Sullivan County, Tennessee.

The LB entered closed session at 7:33 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Beth gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Christie Carlson