



HAYGOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Faith Classroom

Attendees: Mike Fogle (Leadership Board Chair), Mike LaRock (Lay Leader), Pastor Beth Givens (Senior Pastor), Bill Slingerland, Sharon Jenkins, Joe Ford, Jennifer Young, Ceska Tripoli, Austin Grau, and Christie Carlson.

Absent - Phyllis Porter, Agnes Smith, Denise Becker, Rachel Stone, and Kennis Sigmon

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Mike Fogle (MF) began the regular Haygood United Methodist Church (HUMC) Leadership Board (LB) meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Spiritual Formation and Prayer

Kennis Sigmon was not present to provide the Spiritual Formation.

Leadership Equipping

Pastor Beth (PB) opened Leadership Equipping. She reminded the group about belonging, becoming, and blessing which are the three major movements of discipleship. There are six practices that we do in each of these categories. She asked the group to provide examples of how we have opportunities for people to involve themselves in each of these practices.

Belonging to the Body of Christ Through a Life of Worship - Sunday Morning Services, Small Groups, Prayer Room

Life of Hospitality (inclusive and accepting of others with different viewpoints) - Pico with the Pastor, Ministries, United Women in Faith.

PB asked the group to think about how to intentionally include all voices, all visions, and all perspectives.

Life of Opening to God (spiritual practices) - Prayer Team, Prayer requests during services, reading scripture, YouVersion App, Lord's Prayer Classes, Thursday Morning Bible Study, and Classes & Small Groups

Life of Obeying God – The group did not provide a response to this question at this time.

Life of Generosity that Blesses the World – Food Pantry, JCOC, HARK, Clothing Exchange, ASP, Offering Moments including simple acts of encouraging offering

PB asked the group if it surprised anyone that it was easy to come up with acts of generosity? She added that we don't really have a template for a discipleship journey, but that is what we are hoping to move toward. We come to disciple people through the relationships and practices that we build.

Bill Slingerland (BS) stated he took from reading the chapter that everything comes from relationships. Mike LaRock (ML) added that it is not just shaking hands but getting to know people and being



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intentional. BS added that we already do this, and we may not recognize it. PB asked how we encourage more of this, adding that an example would be a simple act of praying before a meal at a restaurant.

MF asked about a life of obeying God. ML said that he thought about the Ten Commandments. BS said he thought it about being more like Jesus. PB replied that Jesus obeyed by basing his life on scripture, welcoming the sinner, discipling others, seeking God and God's will through prayer, and giving his life on the cross.

Vital Signs

Vital Signs information was provided in the LB packet including attendance, revenue and expenses, and food pantry visits and expenses.

PB opened the discussion on worship attendance and gave an explanation to the color coding. BS asked to add a key to the chart so it would be easier to read.

PB noted that there was a large peak in revenue in April 2022 and asked the LB to recognize the interesting trends. Jennifer Young (JY) asked if there was a reason for the spike. PB said that it may have been a stock distribution or a 5th Sunday month, but she could check.

The average in person attendance is around 180 and is up from last year.

The giving commitment campaign is new on Vital Signs. As of this meeting, there have been 25 giving units of return pledges totaling \$148,242. All but two were over 60 years of age, and the other two were over 50 years of age. JY asked if there was a way to pledge online. PB will send a link to the LB. PB added that there were significant mailing issues. There was also no huge wave of return of address corrections. PB recommended an electronic approach and first class mailing or hand delivery to those who do not have email access.

PB provided the LB with an update of the new memberships and visitors since the last meeting and she also provided an update on the nine young ladies enrolled in Confirmation.

Consent Package

The LB should have reviewed the consent packet in Google Drive.

PB noted that Marie's update was uploaded to Google Drive. She asked that the LB review the information on Parks after Dark. She also noted that there are 18 people working at Good Samaritan Episcopal to revive a huge garden.

Generative and Strategic Work

Leadership Board Retreat

MF reminded the LB that the Retreat is August 11th from 6:30 – 9ish, and on the 12th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please eat before you come on Friday evening. There will be boxed lunches on the 12th. The event is being held for free at Virginia Wesleyan. We will not have the regular meeting on August 15th. Please hold the July Leadership Board date for now.



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Chapel Service Worship Pattern

MF opened discussion on two monthly Chapel services in the Summer. JY asked if the Chapel could hold more than 100 people and wondered if it was possible to hold one service in the Chapel. PB replied that the concern would be the live stream. Sharon Jenkins (SJ) asked if the Chapel was air conditioned. PB confirmed that the Chapel was air conditioned. JY commented that the 10:45 a.m. service is also live streamed.

Joe Ford (JF) added that one of the concerns was that the Chapel could be under repair soon. MF said that he spoke with Sonny, and he needs to reach out to Hoy this week about scheduling the repair. PB and Joe are ready to pull funding.

JF asked about where the interest for the second Sunday service is coming from. MF said the interest is coming from the people currently attending the Chapel service. Austin Grau (AG) commented that it is a lot on the pastor to preach three services. ML added that it is also challenging to find an accompanist twice a month. JF asked if it is possible that someone else could handle the Chapel service.

PB replied that is possible, but it is tied to the bigger picture questions. Her concern is that when visitors come to the 9:30 service and attendance is light, what message are we sending. There is lighter attendance in service because of three services. Also, the vision for the Chapel still needs to be determined. Let's not disconnect our thinking about the future of the Chapel with what seems like small decisions. JY added that if the Chapel services move to two times per month, it may be difficult to go back to one service per month.

ML wants to be very clear that this is for the summer and to communicate that the construction schedule has not been set yet. PB added that in the Chapel services she does not have access to the visuals and that there are no extras such as Confirmation presentation or handing out Bibles. That impacts the service. SJ iterated that it is very important to be clear that the construction schedule has not been set yet and it may impact the schedule.

BS added that in fairness to 8:30 crowd, there were three services pre-Covid. He said that we need to be careful about making it sound like we are accommodating those in the Chapel. This is one third of the congregation. PB agreed and wanted to make sure that the response noted that the LB was responding to the request of those that attended the Chapel service.

The LB agreed to add a second Sunday service in the Chapel for June, July, and August

PB advised the LB that she has a candidate in mind to cover for her in July.

PB noted that Keith Best attended the Chapel Service on Sunday and did a great job. He agreed to contract as the accompanist for the Chapel for \$50 a service.

Facilities Alignment Team Update

ML opened the discussion and said that the team met on Tuesday. They reviewed the facility audits.



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The parking has been completed. Chapel repair updates were discussed. They also reviewed preschool, signage, and restrooms.

The team is reviewing what areas in the building are used the most and which ones are used the least, excluding Sunday morning worship. Gene will help by looking at the church calendar. The team is also asking what the missing generations are looking for in the Church. Part of the alignment of the mission and vision is reaching out to the missing generations. If we don't reach out, Haygood will not be here.

ML found an article¹ about the qualities that people look for in a church and by relating it to Haygood, the team was able to determine that some areas of discussion include the safety of space for children and youth, attractiveness, and openness of the space (specifically the Narthex), and the fact that a cemetery was on both sides as people approach the Church. He added that nothing was sacred in the discussion and that the committee was asked to determine what the priorities should be and then send in their thoughts.

The team is also reaching out to three organizations with a wish list looking for a recommendation (without plans because of cost consideration at this point in the process.) The organizations include HBA Architect, Church Development Services, and Wesley Community Development. PB will send a link to the article to the LB.

ML noted that it is not projected that this area (Haygood Church community) will have high population growth, and this could be more about redesigning and addressing significant age instead of expansion. BS added that there is good energy about figuring out what is next.

Ministry Audit Update

SJ said that the ministry audit is going well. The team has contacted almost everyone, and they are on point for the meeting in August. She noted some concerns about individuals treating this as a job and not as a service ministry. More information will be provided once the audit is completed.

Beyond NLI

Crossroads Team

MF asked what the Crossroads Team looks like. PB said that Marie's work is helping to formulate the team and it may be Fall before we have a better picture.

Hospitality Audit

The Facilities Alignment Team is completing the hospitality audit.

Thoughts on Town Hall

MF asked the LB for comments on Town Hall.

JY thought it went well. PB noted that July 30th is the 5th Sunday service, and it is also the VBS Sunday celebration. It may not be the optimal time, but we will figure it out. BS asked about dialogue stemming from the TH. ML said there was good dialogue afterward including questions on the Chapel and the



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disaffiliation process. The one service worked well so that everyone could see each other, and fellowshiping allowed for questions afterward. The September Town Hall can be coordinated with Rise Against Hunger.

The LB entered closed session at 7:48 p.m.

Summary and Open Discussion

What Decisions Were Made Tonight?

The LB approved having two Chapel Services for the Summer.

The Leadership Board Retreat was discussed.

Paster Beth's evaluation was discussed and approved.

PB will send out the electronic giving form and the article¹ that ML referenced.

Closing Prayer

Christie gave the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Christie Carlson

¹ *Qualities People Look for in a Church* <https://www.spacedesign.church/blog/qualities-people-look-for-in-a-church>