

FAIRHOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOARD OF STEWARDS

REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Stewards of Fairhope United Methodist Church was held on January 21, 2018. Emily Garner opened the meeting at 12:20 PM with a reflection on the 15th chapter of John.

PRESENT Forty-two members were present: Betsy Adams, Dianne Bass, Bo Blackwell, Bob Bond, Patt Branyon, Colby Cooper, Bealle Dawson, Don Dolan, Shawn Drummond, Carrie French, Emily Garner, Michelle Graham, T. D. Green, Elizabeth Hammock, Wells Hammock, Mary Hodgkins, Ginny Hollis, Chuck Huguley, Amanda Jacobs, Claire Kimbrough, John Kimbrough, Scott Koser, Gene Lammers, Michele Manasco, David Mastrone, Mark Mathias, Heather Middleton, Evan Myrick, Jennifer Myrick, Ari Ojanpera, Laura Parker, Ann Pearson, Katie Robertson, Brenda Robinson, Lisa Simon, Amber Sparks, Pam Turner, Sid Vogel, Jamie Waldhour, Rachael Waldhour, Jeff White, and Chuck Wilson.

ABSENT Twenty-one members were absent: Pat Gamble, Ed Glaize, Rachel Lovingood, Paula Rigsby, and Barbara Stewart had excused absences. Davis Brock, Patricia Cooper, Craig Dowden, Brandi Fulford, John Goldsberry, Synthia Kaiser, Wendy Pierce, Donna Rodriguez, Jaime Rux, Robbie Rux, Nicole Sansom, Patti Shealy, Kay Speir, Bob Tarabella, Wayne Walker, and Autumn Zellner were absent without excuse.

MINUTES It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 5, 2017 meeting be approved as written. The motion passed without dissent.

FINANCE Elizabeth Hammock reviewed the November financial statements, copies of which are on file with these minutes. The church had overall net income of about \$100,000 in 2017. We have met the Committee's three goals of increasing the pledge rate, paying down the debt, and building up a 3-month cash reserve. The church is seeking volunteers with accounting experience to help the church conduct an audit.

STEWARDSHIP Bo Blackwell reported on the success of the Stewardship Campaign, which produced 308 pledges covering 73% of the budget for 2018.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Don Dolan reported on the generous support received for staff Christmas bonuses. Pastors' compensation for next year was approved. Rob Rodriguez is leaving his paid position as Minister of Outreach, but the position will remain on the budget for now.

COMMUNICATIONS – I.T. TEAM

Joe Lavelle reviewed the progress of the new IT team. A request form was developed, to prioritize and organize projects. We now have a unified wireless network, with doubled internet speed. The phone system has been upgraded. Dave Fulford did an excellent job running the cable, at no charge to the church. The Shelby database system will be upgraded next week, with improved features like a program to check kids in and out of Sunday School or other activities. The Communications Committee welcomes input on upcoming improvements to the website. The staff and church leadership will have to involve themselves in implementing new IT features for the church to get the full benefit of these improvements. The church has no IT staff at present, and we need to budget for maintenance and repairs to our technology.

TRUSTEES

Bealle Dawson reported that the Trustees are planning to proceed with construction of the Columbarium. We do not have sufficient funds yet to fully complete the planned number of niches, so we will build some of the niches now and add the rest as funds become available. There will not be a maintenance reserve at first, but that should grow as more niches are sold. Bealle also submitted a written report listing the projects undertaken by the Trustees in 2017.

SHEPHERD'S PLACE

Susie Caminiti reviewed the organizational and financial status of Shepherd's Place. A Board member suggested sending a mailer to the congregation to increase awareness about the program. They are looking into hiring a permanent director, but are not currently considering a change of location.

PASTOR

Laura Parker reported that Ed Glaize is currently touring the Holy Land, and encouraged members to consider taking such a trip in the future. The chair of the Hospitality Team has stepped down, and Chuck Wilson has been nominated to be the new chair. It was moved and seconded that Chuck's nomination be approved. The motion passed unanimously. Laura also spoke about Covenant Groups, and expressed her appreciation for the church's lay people.

NEW BUSINESS Jamie Waldhour presented a set of new policies regarding use of church facilities, a copy of which is on file with these minutes. It was moved and seconded that the proposed policies be adopted, and the motion passed without dissent.

Chuck Wilson, the new Hospitality Chair, asked for volunteers to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings.

CARING MIN. Ann Pearson spoke about the growth of Stephen Ministry at the church since it began in 1997. She shared a pamphlet that Caring Ministries had prepared to help with making funeral preparations. She reminded the Board that if you are in the hospital, you need to let them know to notify the church, so someone can visit you.

Julie Johnson spoke about the Durable Medical Loan Closet, which loans out medical equipment like walkers and shower chairs. She told how the program had begun, and how it has grown since then to help hundreds of people. She asked the Board to spread the word about the program.

Mary Hodgkins spoke about the Tough Dogs ministry. She described the origins of the program in a support group started by some women in the church fighting cancer. In 2010, Tough Dogs began making care bags filled with things cancer patients need, and distributing them at cancer centers in Fairhope and Daphne. The program also distributes gas cards for people burdened by travel costs.

WRITTEN
REPORTS

Written reports were also submitted for the following areas: Staff-Parish Relations, Communications, Recreation Ministry, Caring Ministries, Music Ministries, Children's Ministries, Student Ministry, and Missions.

ADJOURNMENT Emily Garner adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Shawn Drummond
Recording Secretary