



**Leadership Board
Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2023
7-9pm**

Location: DSM Room

Board Members Present: Brittaney Lucas, Lori Sedlak, Veronica Runyan, Jill Easterling, Susan Boddy, & Dale Gold

Board Members Absent: Ben Murray, Garrick Barnett, and Kristy Harrison

Others Present: Margaret Brandt

Pastors Present: Tom Parkinson, Bud Fickley

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: Brittaney Lucas called the meeting to order and offered a prayer. Meeting minutes from May 15, 2023, were approved. Motion made by Lori Sedlak and seconded by Jill Easterling. Motion carried, with unanimous consent.

Report of the Senior Pastor:

Pastor Tom gave the highlights of the last month.

- We confirmed 10 new members on May 21, 2023.
- Seneca Valley students served at the church on May 30. Mike Manipole from Seneca Valley worked with Beth Freiss on different projects the kids could complete.
- DSM Youth and Graceful & Grateful packed almost 200 lunches for the Light of Life Ministry in May.
- Dutilh hosted the clergy session of the WPAUMC. There were over 300 people in attendance. Members of our Men's Ministry helped with parking and helped make the morning go smoothly.
- Dutilh hosted 3 funerals last month. Thanks to the food ministry for making and organizing meals for these funerals.
- Dutilh recognized 21 graduates in June, from both high school and college.

- Dutilh Preschool's first summer story time was in June, with over 50 children in attendance. Enrollment for preschool for 2023-2024 year is 85%. Enrollment for Pre-K is lower than last year. We are promoting it in multiple places trying to get more sign ups.
- The Divorce Care small group has found comfort and support in each other. They met for 8 weeks, then decided to continue to meet to help one another.
- Sarah Hogue is working on small group plans for the fall, including a grief support group.

Area Reports:

Financial Update:

Giving in the month of May is down slightly from last year. Year to date, giving is 2.3% below the prior year and 6.2% below budget.

The building mortgage is officially under \$1 million.

The IRS sent another employee retention credit for \$33,000. We have a total of \$88,000 in employee retention credit that was sent from the IRS. Garrick, Ben, and Barbie had a discussion regarding allocation of these funds. If all went to debt relief it would lower the loan balance by 10%. After discussion, it was proposed that we hold on to the recent \$33,000 payout to ensure no claw back. It was also decided by consensus to allocate \$55,000 to reduce the mortgage principal.

Personnel Report:

Dale Gold gave an overview of the Personnel Policy Manual, which included a variety of editorial and policy amendment proposal, including the addition of a parental leave policy. After the board provided initial feedback, the policy will come back to the board for approval in September.

Dale also gave an update on the search for Director of Student Ministries. There have been 24 applicants and Dale has spoken with 7 as phone interviews and sent Pastor Tom 3 of the applicants. Pastor Tom had one interview so far and another next week.

Property Report:

Jill Easterling discussed the property report. Our gas and electric bills are higher because of inflation. Capital reserves for the year are \$48,000. Jill expressed that the budget for 2024 needs to be reworked to ensure it accounts for the inflationary cost increases.

- Jill presented an estimate for \$9K to repoint and clean the exterior brick. The Leadership Board approved this bid by unanimous consent.
- The kitchen stove needs to be replaced. A donor has dedicated funds specifically toward the kitchen for the next phase and they gave permission to use that money now for the new stove. Susan will look for a replacement stove.
- The sliding glass door needs at the parsonage is being replaced and siding that was damaged during a spring storm has been repaired.
- Beth Freiss and Jill are evaluating if we can find a qualified volunteer for the fellowship hall wall design.

- The pew in the balcony in front of the media booth is going to be removed before the flea market. It will be sold at the flea market.
- Acoustical ceiling treatment in the greeting area and fellowship hall corridor is being addressed. Beth Freiss is working through the steps to prepare materials to install the ceiling panels.
- Landscaping for the Memorial Garden and front entry are also being addressed.

UMC Update:

Pastor Tom discussed the update of the UMC. Katie Gascoine and Jen Phillips were the lay delegates at the Western PA conference that was held in June in Erie, PA. They were very engaged and did a great job. The most important result that came out of the annual conference was that 298 churches disaffiliated out of about 798 total churches.

Strategic Planning

Pastor Tom discussed the strategic plan for 2024-2028. The areas of focus are engagement, worship, community outreach, next generation, make room, and sustainability. These areas of focus all have objectives and desired outcomes. The final plan will be shared with the congregation when finalized.

Future Meeting Agenda:

Continued work on the Strategic Plan, personnel policy adoption

Closing and Adjournment:

Pastor Bud offered a closing blessing.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2023, at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Boddy
Board Secretary