



Leadership Board Minutes for May 7, 2024
Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Kim Bimestefer (Co-Chair)
Ron Wyckoff (Co-Chair)
Steve Brase
Lacye Cahill
Susan Gustin
David Haukeness
Julie Kronbach, Lay Leader
Doug McKinney

Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Li Roberson
Eric Ross
Elizabeth Gore Stanley
Linda Thomas
Emily Shaffer, Little Blessings Preschool Director

Members joined by Zoom:

Kim Bimestefer

Members not in Attendance:

Lacye Cahill
David Haukeness

Visitors

Mark Jackson

- I. Call to order: Ron called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.
- II. Opening devotion: Eric shared a devotion from seedbed.com called "Who's on First?"
- III. Review and approval of minutes of April 2, 2024
 - A. Eric moved to approve, Julie seconded
- IV. Senior Pastor's report
 - A. Membership report
 1. Baptisms – 8 this year; at least 2 more later in May
 2. New Members – 37 this year, with another 13 to join later in May
 3. Withdrawals/Transfers – 18
 - a. James & Lynn Cohick; Sid & Terry Hughes; Dale & Kristi Zimmerman; Kevin, Sherrie & Jack Eimen; Tom & Lorraine Seepers; Susan Langsdorf; Betsy Beineke; John, Kathy & Megan Zimbeck; Cheryl & Mike Pearson
 - b. Most withdrawals/transfers were because of letters we sent out as part of the membership audit
 4. Total number of members who have died – 4 (Jean Kuhns, Judy Bynum, Jan Shelton, Phil Harris)
 5. Membership Audit update – still in process
 6. Laura's personal project – going through the nametags!
 - a. If someone doesn't like the location of their nametags (i.e., too high or too low), please let us know
 - b. Our records were not up to date but they will be soon
 - B. Worship updates year-to-date 2024
 1. Worship numbers are holding steady
 2. Year-to-date 2024 update:

- 1) 9 a.m. service avg = 199 (including Easter), 185 (excluding Easter)
- 2) 10:30 a.m. service avg = 79 (including Easter), 61 (excluding Easter)
- 3) Total in person = 278 (199+79), both services, including Easter; 246 (185+61), both services, excluding Easter
- 4) Online viewers = 209 (including Easter); 206 (excluding Easter)
 - b. Average concurrent online worshippers = 50, approximately 70 total
3. Choir will continue through May with Show Up and Sing starting in June
- C. Little Blessings leadership change
 1. Emily Shaffer introduced herself
 2. Fundraising event April 26 a success, raised \$20K
 3. Currently getting bids for playground renovation, expecting it to be in \$80-90K range
 - a. Hoping for work to be done in August or during fall break
 - b. Ron – what about drainage concerns with playground?
 - c. Laura – will have to ask Sarah to revisit the quotes we got before
 4. Universal preschool was a good experience for Little Blessings, have about 70 UPK enrolled so far for next year
 5. Expecting enrollment to stay steady at about 220
 - a. Problem with expansion is not space, but staffing
- D. Based on staff feedback, things are going well
 1. Good energy
 2. Mortgage an ongoing problem
- E. UMC General Conference April 23 – May 3, 2024
 1. Was a flyer included with Sunday bulletin May 5 summarizing actions taken
 2. Staff has not gotten feedback so far on decisions that were made
 - a. If we hear any concerns or questions we can refer people to the pastors
 3. In early 2023, the Leadership Board approved that no same-gendered marriage ceremonies would be allowed on site because it was not allowed by The Book of Discipline
 - a. Ron – we should revisit the packet that was developed in response to the discernment meetings Fall 2022 to see if there should be alterations to our policies in response to the decisions of the General Conference
 - b. Elizabeth and Julie, both of whom were involved with the original discernment meetings, will revisit
 4. Linda asked Laura what her preference would be concerning same-sex weddings
 5. Laura – feels that decisions about the use of the building (e.g., is it OK for same-sex marriages to be performed in the sanctuary?) should be up to the Leadership Board
 - a. Clergy have always had the right to decide whether to perform any particular wedding
 6. Laura Thursday evening Zoom availability to talk about anything related to the sermon series on being United Methodist Christians
 - a. Have had a few more participants

V. Business items

A. Fellowship Hall project

1. Work has started
 - a. Painting done, including ceiling
 - b. Wooden facing put on entrances
 - c. Building of classrooms starting soon
 - d. Problem of people trying to get in to look
 - e. Ron will take photos in the company of John Quest to share with congregation
2. Ron suggested that there should be a grand party to celebrate the re-opening of the Fellowship Hall

- a. Likely September-ish
 - b. Need a team to organize
- B. Plans to acknowledge the service of the three charter members of the Leadership Board who just finished their terms (Dan O'Neill, Jack Kear, Rick Kucera)
 - 1. Reminder that also needs to include Tricia Woods
 - 2. Plaque available in Laura's office
 - 3. Still working on dates – June 2 looking most likely
 - 4. Kim volunteered to get gift certificates to Wolf Peach as thank-you
 - 5. Ron and Laura will craft a thank-you letter

VI. Team reports

- A. Building and Maintenance – Ron
 - 1. Jeff Gibreal has been helping with all sorts of indoor maintenance projects
- B. Building Future – Eric
 - 1. Have met twice, floating ideas
 - 2. Have looked into installing solar panels to defray energy costs
- C. Christian Ed – Doug
 - 1. Haven't met recently
- D. Communication – Doug
 - 1. Jane Smith has been conducting interviews with staff to determine how system works, needs
 - 2. Looking to form two sub-teams
 - a. Backup to Paul Ijames on website
 - b. Video team
 - 3. Looking to improve interior signage
 - 4. Trying to get calendar function of CCB working for the church
 - a. Works well for St. Andrews
 - 5. Elizabeth has been in contact with Jostens about possibly creating a cross and flame symbol to go on the south-facing outside wall of the Fellowship Hall
 - a. Not immediately apparent what our building is to someone traveling N on Parker Road
 - b. This would be a semi-permanent sign – not long-lived
- E. Endowment – Eric
 - 1. The Endowment Committee will distribute eight \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors this spring
- F. Finance – Linda
 - 1. Linda asked if any of us have received questions about the financial state of the church
 - 2. Response -- no
- G. Gathering at the Lot (result of the A Table for All initiative) – Julie
 - 1. Intention is to focus on a third Thursday activity, but the inaugural event will be Sunday, August 4 in conjunction with the Blessing of the Backpacks
 - a. Theme of the Olympics, which will be still going on
 - b. Will hire climbing wall
 - c. Arranging food trucks
 - d. Can the choir (or subset) sing the Olympic hymn?
- H. Groundskeeping team - Doug
 - 1. Lawns got mowed
 - a. Sam Ward will maintain the big lawnmowers
 - 2. Weeds to be sprayed
 - 3. Church work day with Scouts planned for Saturday, May 18
 - a. Little Blessings will also have work going on that day
- I. Health and Safety Committee update – Steve

1. Showed the new safety documents to be posted around church
 - a. In form of flip sheets
 - b. Includes map locating safety resources in church building
 2. Fire blankets have arrived to go in kitchen, by two microwaves
 3. Are working on a sign to go outside the kitchen to list ALL of the safety resources available in kitchen
 4. We in the Leadership Board also need to be point people in case of an emergency, should expect to attend training as it becomes available
- J. Missions – Julie
1. No update
- K. Neighbors in Need – Ron and Doug
1. Meeting scheduled for tomorrow (May 8) with Love Inc.
 2. Looking to be an affiliate
 3. Money from golf tournament scheduled for September 9 will help fund outreach
 4. Doug presented plan for Leadership Board to take the Redemptive Compassion class
 - a. Presented by Mark and Lisa Jackson and Doug
 - b. Proposed Tuesday evenings 6-7 p.m., probably combination in-person + Zoom
 - c. Possible May 28 start date
 - d. Julie – can we record the sessions?
- L. SPRC – Doug
1. Introduced the forms that we in the Leadership Board need to fill out to provide annual guidance to our clergy (Laura, Cody)
 2. Due to Doug by April 9
 3. Lacye – who are we representing in our comments? Just ourselves?
 4. Doug – ourselves, and also the people in the church that we most come in contact with
 5. Doug will collate the comments so that they are anonymous
- M. Stewardship – Li
1. Nothing to report

VII. New business

- A. Question on why we are going to Pushpay for online donations
1. CCB will soon stop talking with aware3 but has partnership with Pushpay
 2. Staff is helping people make the transition
 3. Will ultimately make things easier for the staff
 4. Laura reported that several people called to ask if this was a scam – she responded that was good that they had asked

Executive session

VIII. SPRC

- A. Doug passed out the combined responses to the pastor assessments
1. Responses from Leadership Board and self-assessments by pastors
- B. We reviewed individually the smart goals proposed by each pastor and chose the three that we felt were the most significant
- C. Doug + team will review Laura's with her; Laura reviews Cody's with her

Out of Executive session

IX. Next meeting

- A. Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. May include Redemptive Compassion segment, then meeting
- B. Julie will provide the devotion

X. Kim closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of May 7, 2024 were submitted to Laura and Ron for review on May 11, 2024.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member