



**Leadership Board Minutes for July 2, 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:**

David Haukeness

**Members not in Attendance:**

Kim Bimestefer  
Lacye Cahill  
Emily Shaffer  
Elizabeth Gore Stanley  
Linda Thomas

**Observers**

Lisa Jackson

- I. Call to order: Ron called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
- II. Opening devotion: Eric shared a devotion on the power of a NUDGE (Never underestimate decisions God encourages)
- III. Opening comments -- Ron
  - A. Observers may observe the meeting but may not participate in any way
  - B. It's important to have only one conversation going on at a time
    1. Helps people with hearing difficulties follow what is going on
- IV. Review and approval of minutes of June 4, 2024
  - A. Eric moved to approve, Ron seconded
- V. Senior Pastor's Report
  - A. Membership update thus far (included in minutes but not presented at meeting)
    1. Baptisms – 14 this year; 12 in 2023
    2. New Members – 49 this year; 40 in 2023
    3. Withdrawals/Transfers – 25 (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; Ted, Patty, Eric, Wade & Jennie Tedesco and Sue & Ana Jessen (transferred a couple of years ago, never updated our records)
    4. Total number of members who have died – 4 (Jean Kuhns, Judy Bynum, Jan Shelton, Phil Harris)

5. Membership Audit update – still in process (see above – most withdrawals/transfers were because of emails/letters we sent out)
  6. Updates to be included in July newsletter
- B. Worship updates year-to-date 2024 (included in minutes but not presented at meeting)
1. 9 a.m. service avg =
    - a. 191, including Easter
    - b. 181, excluding Easter
  2. 10:30 a.m. service avg =
    - a. 70, including Easter
    - b. 58, excluding Easter
  3. Total in person =
    - a. 268 (192+70), both services, including Easter
    - b. 239 (181+58), both services, excluding Easter
  4. Online viewers =
    - a. 188, including Easter
    - b. 185, excluding Easter
    - c. Average concurrent online worshippers = 50, approximately 70 total
- C. Update on Groundworks proposal to mitigate drainage problems
1. Approved last month
  2. Afterward, vendor came out and said he needed to adjust the amount higher as he now recommended a new configuration
    - a. 4<sup>th</sup> bid
    - b. All 4 bids quite different
  3. We reached out to other vendors
    - a. Both recommended not to do as Groundworks proposed (though we didn't disclose any of this)
    - b. Instead, they found items stuck in the drains and recommend removing these items and possibly recaulking around them as this was probably the reason for the seepage
    - c. Sarah reached out to Hank Battjes who sent her info about previous investigations that matched these 2 new vendors
    - d. We have a meeting tomorrow with Hank and Ron to review this new information
    - e. If the team approved, since one bid is for just under \$1,000, we plan to move forward with this simpler fix to see if that solves the problem.
- D. Fellowship Hall renovation
1. Work is proceeding, no delays anticipated
  2. All of the inspections so far have gone well
  3. Still expect late July completion
- E. Annual Conference
1. Great experience, just ask Julie & Lacye!
  2. No major legislation passed that directly affects our church
  3. Conference working on episcopal transition
    - a. Bishop Oliveto retires effective August 31
    - b. New bishop will begin September 1
    - c. The Western Jurisdiction meets July 10-13; this is where bishops are received and assigned to their annual conference
      - 1) By the end of Saturday, July 13, we should know who our new bishop is
  - d. Usually there is an election process
    - 1) Other jurisdictions, due to disaffiliations that caused them to consolidate annual conferences, may have bishops available to move to our jurisdiction

- 2) Complicated process; nothing has been decided yet
- 3) All that to say, we are all practicing patience!
- e. Laura anticipates scheduling times to give updates sometime after July 13 – in person on Sunday morning, via Zoom, etc.
- F. Passed around thank-you note from Tricia Woods

## VI. Business

- A. Gift baskets from Leadership Board for golf tournament
  - 1. Layce Cahill and Charlotte Huffaker have volunteered to create baskets on behalf of the Leadership Board
  - 2. Baskets will be displayed at church before the tournament to increase exposure for the auction
- B. Still need volunteers to plan celebration event on the Fellowship Hall renovations
  - 1. Anticipated to be on a Sunday in late September
  - 2. Julie will assist as co-leader
  - 3. Julie – what about including information on the renovation on the history wall?
  - 4. Laura – Jason and others are working on updates to the history wall
- C. Signs about emergency equipment are now posted on kitchen doors

## VII. Team reports

- A. Little Blessings
  - 1. Contract is signed on the playground
  - 2. Work will begin first week of August
- B. Finance team
  - 1. Eric provided an update
  - 2. Cause for rejoicing – through May, according to the budget we expected to be about \$68,000 in the hole. Instead are running about \$9000 in the hole
  - 3. Cause for concern – albatross of the mortgage
  - 4. Doug – we need to grow our numbers
  - 5. Li -- have we looked into installing solar to offset costs?
    - a. Doug – are looking into
    - b. Eric – one problem is lack of seed money for big projects
  - 6. Li – it would be good to know what the focus is for the stewardship campaign this fall
  - 7. Eric – we do still have the rainy-day fund with about \$250,000
    - a. Also Little Blessings is financially sound and has been sharing their surplus
  - 8. Laura – based on information from other congregations we may still expect to get the employee retention credit from COVID
    - a. Since has not heard anything in so long were assuming it would not happen
  - 9. David – given everything that has happened in last 24 months, we have a lot of reason for gratitude and joy
- C. Neighbors in Need Compassion Mission
  - 1. Li and Ron – need more input, not quite ready to present
- D. Statement of Inclusivity
  - 1. Julie and Elizabeth – let’s review next month

## VIII. What to include in news to congregation

- A. Financial update
- B. Fellowship Hall update
- C. Updates on members, worship
- D. Update on Annual Conference and new bishop

- IX. Next meeting
  - A. Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
  - B. Li will provide the devotion
  
- X. Julie closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Review of Minutes:** The meeting minutes of July 2, 2024 were submitted to Laura and Ron for review on July 9, 2024.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member