



**Leadership Board Minutes for September 17, 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  
Emily Shaffer, Little Blessings Preschool Director  
Elizabeth Gore Stanley  
Linda Thomas

**Members joined by Zoom:**

Kim Bimestefer  
Lacye Cahill  
Elizabeth Gore Stanley

**Members not in Attendance:**

David Haukeness  
Julie Kronbach  
Emily Shaffer

- I. Call to order: Ron called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Opening devotion: Li shared a devotion concerning the difference between childlike and childish faith
- III. Review and approval of minutes of July 2, 2024
  - A. Eric moved to approve, Li seconded
  - B. Minutes approved unanimously
- IV. Senior Pastor's Report
  - A. Membership update
    1. 3 new baptisms (17 YTD) and 2 new members (56 YTD) since June
    2. New Member Class on September 22 – 6 signed up so far
    3. Withdrawals/Transfers – 37 YTD
      - a. Includes many from membership audit
    4. Total number of members who have died – no change
    5. Membership Audit update – just about to share with the congregation the list of persons we haven't seen for several years who haven't responded to our letters and emails (1-year list for 2024 Charge Conference)
  - B. Worship updates
    1. Year to date 2024 update
      - a. 9 a.m. service avg = 188
      - b. 10:30 a.m. service avg = 65
      - c. Total in-person = 253
      - d. Online viewers = 171
      - e. Average concurrent online worshippers = 50, approximately 70 total
    2. Numbers are recently lower because of typical summer slump; should increase as fall attendance picks up

- C. Upcoming replacement of 2 HVAC units
  - 1. Expecting a cost of around \$35,000
  - 2. Have 1 bid; waiting on another
  - 3. Prepare for email vote if needed, or during October 1 meeting
  - 4. Will email bids to Leadership Board before the meeting
- D. Classes and small groups
  - 1. Connections Catalog currently available
  - 2. Presents a variety of groups both on-going and seasonal; check them out
- E. Leadership Board for 2025
  - 1. 3 are rotating off, 1 position has been and remains open
    - a. Rotating off: David Haukeness, Doug McKinney, Lacye Cahill
    - b. Still need Lay Member to Annual Conference
    - c. 4 total new members needed
  - 2. We have two names so far (Paul Knowles and Heidi Griff); need 2 others
  - 3. Laura will work with Pastor Cody but wanted to give Board the update
  - 4. Work for Nominations Team to bring to Leadership Board prior to Church Conference
    - a. Last year we had one more nominee than elected positions, someone was left off
    - b. Laura would like to present nominees to fill the positions, so this doesn't happen again
- F. 2025 budget
  - 1. SPRC meeting upcoming re: salaries
  - 2. 2024 income is looking better than previously anticipated
  - 3. Still have a big deficit budget because of mortgage
  - 4. Will share our situation with the congregation in October
    - a. Have a report that shows what our budget and financial reports look like **with** the mortgage and **without** the mortgage
  - 5. Are anticipating another big increase in insurance costs, perhaps 50%
  - 6. Kim – would like to see information on giving by “giving groups”
  - 7. Linda – expects this to be discussed at Finance Team meeting this week
  - 8. Stewardship in November will include more direct information on our budget
  - 9. *Footloose* and golf tournament as fundraisers
    - a. *Footloose* presentation was a great success both in terms of fundraising and community engagement
      - 1) The event raised over \$3,000
      - 2) Proceeds shared between Parker Task Force, Fine Arts program, and the church
      - 3) Thanks to all who participated and attended!
      - 4) Conversations are going on around another performance next year
      - 5) Renovated Fellowship Hall will be tested as a space for musical performances with Mile High Big Band concert Friday, September 20
    - b. Our 2nd annual golf tournament was also a great success
      - 1) Raised about \$6000
      - 2) Again, thanks to all who participated – golfers, diners, volunteers
      - 3) We look forward to another tournament next year!
        - i. Will hold out \$1000 of the proceeds from this year for the deposit for next year
- G. Involvement
  - 1. Youth met 2x/month during the summer
  - 2. Are enough children coming for Sunday school that are now spread across two classrooms
  - 3. Pre-teen group starting up in September
  - 4. 70 kids came to the event on emotions September 13

5. A moms group is meeting at Convict Coffee
6. Noelle is starting a group to read to kids at Fiction Beer

V. Team reports

A. Table for All -- Laura

1. Cody and Noelle to a pivot retreat in September
  - a. New ideas about how to engage with the community
2. Laura – team meets next week, could use some new members and new ideas

B. Building and Maintenance – Ron

1. Fellowship Hall
  - a. New cabinets installed in hallway this week (outside Fellowship Hall)
    - 1) Part of donors’ contribution to Fellowship Hall renovation
  - b. We will get rid of old, mis-matching cabinets
  - c. We kept some of the dividers used for Winter Shelter, got rid of many
  - d. First concert this Friday
  - e. Pickleball lines re-installed
  - f. Doug – what about getting a movable basketball hoop?
    - 1) Laura – staff will discuss
  - g. Celebration party for reopening Sunday, September 29
    - 1) Single service, potluck, Bible trivia, piano music provided by Bill Lee
2. Water intrusion project
  - a. Started September 16
  - b. Finding all sorts of things blocking drains, such as dinosaurs and balls
  - c. Laura – seem to be doing a good, careful job of both cleaning out and making changes to prevent things from getting into the drains again

C. Building Futures – Eric

1. Currently feel stymied – could use fresh ideas, people
2. Investigating solar, though probably involves substantial upfront investment
  - a. Kim – be careful of solar – lots of scams. Has a colleague who can help vet projects/contractors
3. Li – what about replacing projectors? (one has failed)
4. Laura – we don’t know yet what will cost so don’t know where to look for the money
  - a. Jason is researching

D. Finance -- Eric

1. Has been an expected slowdown in giving this summer
2. Will get a better feel for how year likely to end with September figures
3. So far look to continue to run less of a deficit than had budgeted for
4. Reason for long-term encouragement with increasing population of Parker, at our end of town
5. Also concerns -- about mortgage, probable increase in property insurance
  - a. Laura – Many churches are being dropped altogether from property insurance
6. Linda – reasons for optimism. Important to be transparent with congregation about the challenges, may encourage increased giving
7. Kim – echoed need to give congregation information, particularly in context of upcoming stewardship campaign

E. Grounds – Doug

1. Have new leaders in Mike Droll and Paul Knowles
2. Grounds have looked good this summer
3. Need to get the two riding lawn mowers checked

F. Adult Ed – Doug

1. Have contacted Terry Kucera about teaching Sunday school – she is willing
2. June Webster is also available for short-term or one-off sessions

3. Faith Talk questions now in Midweek
  - a. Based on sermon texts
  - b. Kim – who is the audience?
  - c. Doug – hoping questions become a basis for informal conversations within families, small groups
4. Linda – do we ask new members about their interest/experience in teaching?
  - a. Laura – yes
- G. Communication – Doug
  1. Jason and Bruce available to create videos
    - a. Have people available to serve as actors, mostly from *Footloose* connection
  2. Jason creating online form for people in church to request graphics support
    - a. Being tested
  3. Team going to St. Andrews to see how they use CCB for their newsletter, calendar
  4. Problems with CCB phone app
    - a. Newer version less functional than previous version
    - b. Doug – we may want to offer assistance to congregants with the CCB app between church services
- H. Endowment – Eric
  1. Presented 3-year Endowment Awareness Campaign to increase awareness, involvement from congregation about including church in wills
  2. Motion to go forward with proposed plan
    - a. Linda so moved, Li seconded
    - b. Approved unanimously
- I. Health and Safety – Steve
  1. Presented final format of emergency action guidelines
  2. Being printed up for distribution, placement around church
  3. Will require involvement of Leadership Board in implementing, such as directing people if evacuation is necessary
    - a. Li – are there vests or something that identifies responders?
    - b. Need to have several people direct EMS to right location if medical emergency
    - c. We need to familiarize ourselves with the guidelines
  4. Suggestion to record any training to make available to others
    - a. Could also use video services that Jason/Bruce are providing
    - b. Need to train more than just the ushers
- J. Missions – Ron for Julie
  1. Several fundraisers for Feed My Starving Children coming up
- K. Neighbors in Need – Ron
  1. Presented Outreach Assistance Policy
  2. Doug moved that we adopt the policy, Steve seconded
    - a. Passed unanimously
- L. SPRC – Lacye
  1. Meeting September 26
    - a. Main focuses pastor compensation and appointment advisory
  2. Suggestion to make sure to honor the people in the church who contribute, such as Mike Droll on Grounds
    - a. Laura – staff will be identifying one person per month to celebrate in the monthly newsletter
- M. Stewardship – Li
  1. Campaign will be kicking off in November
- N. Little Blessings – Ron for Emily
  1. Year off to a good start
  2. 80% enrolled – fewer UPK families than expected

3. Playground installed
  - a. Got substantial discount for some problems that came up in installation

VI. What to include in news to congregation  
A. Financial update

- VII. Next meeting
- A. Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
  - B. Ron – an opportunity to step back and consider how the Leadership Board has been serving the church, congregation
    1. In place for about 2 years
    2. Doug – how do we ensure that functions are being covered that Book of Discipline says need to be covered?
    3. Doug – need more layperson involvement
      - a. Perhaps model of Leadership Board member starting as the chair of a team, but moving toward lay leadership
  - C. Steve will provide the devotion

VIII. Kim closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**Review of Minutes:** The meeting minutes of September 17, 2024 were submitted to Laura and Ron for review on September 25, 2024.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member