



Leadership Board Minutes for November 5, 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:

Lacye Cahill

Members not in Attendance:

Kim Bimestefer
David Haukeness
Emily Shaffer

- I. Call to order: Ron called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- II. Susan opened us with 1 Corinthians 13, prayer
- III. Minutes of October 1, 2024 not in packet – will review and approve at December meeting
- IV. Senior Pastor’s Report
 - A. Membership update
 1. Baptisms (17 YTD) and new members (51 YTD) since June
 2. New members joining November 10: 2 so far
 - a. Eric – do we have information on whether new members are from areas of south, west Parker that are being built out?
 - b. Laura – many are coming from Aurora
 - c. Lacye – Smoky Hill may be closer for Aurora residents, but we are a bigger church if that is what people want
 - d. Doug – how often does the conference update the demographic information?
 - e. Laura – continuously. We have access to the conference’s demographic information, but need someone who can evaluate it
 3. Withdrawals/transfers – 67 YTD
 - a. Includes many from membership audit updates
 4. Total number of members who have died – 6 YTD
 5. Membership Audit update
 - a. Those persons we haven’t seen for several years and haven’t responded to our letters and emails will be included in our Church Conference packet, Year 1 list.
 - b. If we don’t hear from them by this time next year, they will be on the Year 2 list, and at church conference we can vote to remove their membership.
 - B. Worship updates
 1. Year to date 2024 update:

- a. 9 a.m. service avg = 185
 - b. 10:30 a.m. service avg = 63
 - c. Total in person = 248
 - d. Online viewers = 166
 - e. Average concurrent online worshippers = 50, approximately 70 total
 - f. Numbers are lower because of summer slump; should increase as fall attendance picks up
2. Upcoming sermon series:
- a. Stewardship Series – November 10, 17, 24
 - b. Commitment Sunday – November 24
 - c. Advent – December 1, 8, 15, 22
 - 1) Focus on Grinch
 - 2) Flyers for us to hand out
 - d. Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24 – 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.
 - e. Longest Night Prayers – Sunday, December 22, 5:00 p.m.: place to pray, not an official service; will invite those who have lost loved ones
 - f. Messiah – December 15, 9 a.m. service
 - 1) Little Blessing Christmas program that afternoon
 - 2) Spark! service will be in Fellowship Hall
 - g. Sunday, December 29 – 2 worship services; know they will be less attended
- C. Church Conference – Saturday, November 23, 9:00 a.m.
- D. Listening sessions re: Budget
- 1. Went very well
 - 2. Attendance at each: 9, 4, 6, 26
 - 3. One question asked: How much have we saved with new contracts for services?
 - a. Professional cleaning
 - 1) Was: \$38,982/year
 - 2) Now: \$30,602/year
 - 3) Savings: \$8,390/year
 - b. Church office copier
 - 1) Was: \$947.55/month
 - 2) Now: \$532.26/month
 - 3) Savings: \$415.29/month or \$4,983.48/year
 - c. Century Link phones & fiber
 - 1) Was: \$829/month
 - 2) Now: \$637/month (reduction of 4 VOIP phones)
 - 3) Savings: \$192/month
 - 4) Note: We will need to renegotiate this contract in January; not sure about the cost because may have a new fiber optic line
 - 4. Also question on mission shares that go to conference
 - a. Methodists a connectional denomination
 - b. Elizabeth proposed posting info on costs/benefits of our conference connection on poster in narthex
 - 1) She will design a poster
- V. Business items – updates from teams
- A. Finance – Eric
- 1. So far this year running \$11K deficit, better than anticipated
 - 2. Little Blessing is running at a deficit due to lower-than-expected enrollments
 - a. Universal pre-K not advertised well this year
 - b. Competition from preschools associated with charter schools
 - 3. Doug – is Little Blessings able to adjust their budget?

4. Laura – will start early enrollment for next year in December, will give better idea of adjustments that may be needed
 - a. Want to do all possible to avoid losing staff, since is very difficult to find staff in the first place
- B. Endowment – Eric
 1. Have started the process of educating congregation on endowments
 - a. Blurbs in Midweek, monthly newsletter
 2. Stock market has been strong so existing endowment funds are strong
- C. Building – Linda
 1. New organ
 - a. Over \$17K raised in donations to date
 - b. Have purchased new organ for \$13K, on its way
 - c. Are still soliciting funds for additional needs related to organ
 - 1) Updates to interface between organ and speakers
 - 2) New music stand
 - 3) Future maintenance
 - i. If organ needs repair, will have to be sent elsewhere
 2. Updates/replacements for sanctuary projectors, stage lighting
 - a. Have received donations of \$82K
 - b. Have bids to cover both projectors and lighting from AcousTech (Franktown)
 - 1) Projectors = \$25,200; Lighting = \$43,225; Total = \$68,425
 - 2) Have worked with them before, are good to work with
 - 3) Sarah was only able to get one bid
 - i. Other companies not willing to bid
 - ii. It may be that our system is too small to attract their business (we're not a mega-church)
 - c. Even though it seems as though we have extra money, will be expenses related to the projects (electricians, renting lifts) that are not included in the bids
 - d. Julie moved that we accept the AcousTech bids and proceed with the work
 - 1) Li seconded
 - 2) Approved unanimously
 - e. Ron will sign the contract
- D. SPRC – Lacye
 1. Time to turn in “yes/no/maybe” form (Mountain Sky Conference Clergy Appointment Advisory form) on Pastors Laura and Cody
 - a. Will only include Leadership Board members who are present -- not a way for the people on Zoom to participate anonymously
 2. Ron – we only need a majority
- E. Communications – Doug
 1. PUMC app
 - a. Our current PUMC app is going aways within days
 - b. New app ready to be rolled out
 - 1) Links to info in CCB
 - 2) Jason has been enhancing
 - c. Communications team members will be in narthex this Sunday (November 10) to help explain, demonstrate
 2. Banners
 - a. We are preparing banners with our mission/vision, Messiah
 3. Working to get photos of Leadership Board members up on screens, Hollywood Squares-style
 4. Working to get a QR code to help people connect/contact church
 5. We need a script for the safety video

- a. Elizabeth/Li/Steve will work on this
 - 6. Ready to film stewardship stories
 - a. Could use another person to share their story
- F. Adult Ed – Doug
 - 1. Faith Talk at Panera going well, on week 5 of 8
 - 2. Advent study on Grinch
- G. Missions – Julie
 - 1. Feed My Starving Children weekend Nov. 1-2 very successful – packed 101,088 meals (exceeded the goal!)
 - 2. Julie recommends that we sign the contract for this year’s pack
 - a. Have already paid \$20,000 of the \$30,000 required
 - 3. Turnout of volunteers from our congregation not fabulous
 - a. Help of LDS church members in setting up, packing was invaluable
 - 4. Julie moved that we approve the contract with FMSC
 - a. Li seconded
 - b. Approved unanimously
- H. Leadership Board nominations team – Ron
 - 1. Team = Laura, Ron, Kim, Li, Elizabeth, Julie
 - 2. Need to fill four positions
 - a. Rotating off: David Haukeness, Doug McKinney, Lacye Cahill
 - b. Steve Brase is resigning due to moving
 - 3. Status of nominations
 - a. John Quest completed nomination form
 - b. Heidi Handel is pending
 - c. Paul Knowles is pondering
 - d. Kelly Evans is considering
 - 1) Has appointment to chat with Lacye
 - 4. Candidates will be presented and voted on at Church Conference Nov. 23
- I. Stewardship – Li
 - 1. 2024 campaign getting underway
 - 2. Wade McCorkle is building a thermometer to show progress
 - 3. Have three people to share stewardship stories – Julie, Li and Lisa Jackson.
 - a. Conversation – would good to get a man to participate
 - 4. Ron – suggested stairstep graphic, encouraging people to “step up” to the next higher % levels of giving
 - a. Julie – feels message too practical/consumer-oriented, not enough focused on Christ
 - b. Steve – need to be clear about where these funds go, particularly in aftermath of campaigns for organ, projectors, sanctuary lighting
 - c. Linda – large churches hire people for full-time fundraising
 - d. Doug – supports the stairstep
 - 1) Becomes educational, particularly for those who have no realization of the range of generosity people display
 - e. Laura – what about a chart of income, showing what various percentages of giving would look like?
 - 1) Linda – would that be too much?
 - f. Ron – how do we announce the donations we HAVE received for organ/projectors/lighting?
 - g. Julie – suggests that Leadership Board turn in pledge cards early as a symbol of involvement
- J. Little Blessings – Emily
 - 1. Playground upgrades

- a. New artificial turf installed on large playground thanks to an anonymous donor
- b. Continued fundraising efforts
 - 1) Replace playground structure + artificial turf in smaller playground
 - 2) Install artificial turf in garden area and seating area by entrance
- 2. Enrollment
 - a. Continue to enroll new students almost daily
 - b. Current enrollment 195; about 85% of capacity
 - c. Will start pre-registration for 2025-2026 on December 2
- 3. Christmas programs Sunday, December 15, 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.
- K. Building Team part 2 – Doug
 - 1. Have been recruiting people to re-create an entity similar to former Trustees
 - 2. Identified 16 interested people, including 2 who live out-of-town
 - 3. Linda – have lost ongoing/proactive nature of Trustees
 - a. E.g., annual project to clean toys out of Little Blessings drains
 - 4. Li – accessibility walk-through?
 - a. Needed for ADA compliance

VI. New business

- A. Suggested changes to functioning of Leadership Board
 - 1. Ron – proposed changes to chair/vice-chair functions
 - a. Suggested that person be identified as vice-chair in first year of service on the Board
 - b. Would then inherit job of chair in second year on the Board
 - c. In third year would have role of Past Chair, as mentor/advisor
 - d. Would require changes to governing rules
 - e. Linda – we need to define roles of chairs/vice-chairs more clearly
 - f. Linda – would like to see more documentation/training on Board/team positions, such as binders that record job and are handed down
 - g. Li – what about following this proposed model but future chairs not identified until 2nd year on Board?
 - h. Laura – prospect of 4 years on Board pretty daunting
 - i. Julie – we need better feeder systems for Leadership Board, to really identify candidates
 - j. Luara – clarify what, exactly, we do, so that when we ask someone to serve, can give better information
 - k. Julie – would be good to have videos on Leadership Board to show in time before the service – we’re mysterious
 - l. Li -- agrees
 - m. Laura – the fact of our being mysterious might be why people aren’t interested in serving
 - 2. Doug’s message about concerns with the Leadership Board system
 - a. Feels that Leadership Board is overburdened in many ways
 - 1) Need to receive information pertinent to making decision sufficiently before meetings
 - 2) Don’t have pipeline of non-Leadership Board people to be part of teams and then move into Leadership Board roles
 - b. We seem to have lost ongoing history/involvement in groups such as Trustees, SPRC
 - 1) Feels we’re not performing as well without SPRC, etc.
 - c. Idea was that many of the decisions would be staff-driven, but staff is now smaller than when idea initially conceived
 - d. Linda – need documentation on what we do as a team member – what are we tasked with?

- e. Ron – this would be a good action item, to create this documentation
- f. Doug – when Trustees was dissolved, left some people without a role in the church
- g. Laura – maybe some of the authority that the Leadership Board currently has needs to return to the Trustees
 - 1) E.g., evaluating bids related to maintenance and recommend action
- h. Steve – many people served on Trustees for many years, accumulated a wealth of knowledge/experience
- i. Eric – would be good too involve people in Trustees in 1/3 pattern: 1/3 long-term expertise, 1/3 newer, 1/3 brand new
- j. Ron – will have to table the discussion to future meeting

- VII. Next meeting
 - A. Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
 - B. Eric will provide the devotion

- VIII. Laura closed us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of November 5, 2024 were submitted to Laura and Ron for review on November 12, 2024.

Susan Gustin, Leadership Board Member