March - April meeting 4/6/2016 Ad Board Minutes- Mt Bethel United Methodist Church

Mt Bethel's Leadership Team: Attendees in BOLD. Ad Board Minutes - Mt Bethel United Methodist Church

Leader at Large: Rollie Eck.

Leader at Large: Vern Emerson.

Leader at Large: Shelby Gregg.

Pastor: David Brown

Also attending: Ken Alich

Mt Bethel’s Leadership Team: Attendees in BOLD.

Ad Board Chair: Jamie Gregg. Ad Board Chair Elect: Dan Glenn.

Lay Leader: Polly Tabbert.

Finance Chair: Linda Emerson.

Financial Sect: Darlene Ashley.

MOE Chair: Tim & Ellen Bomstad. Scout Rep: Mark Zahn.

SPRP Chair: Jill Lewis.

Treasurer: Pam Roesler.

Trustee Chair: Barb Mahovlich.

Worship co-Chairs: Kathy Behrendt & Joann Larson.

Leader at Large: Rollie Eck.

Leader at Large: Vern Emerson.

Leader at Large: Shelby Gregg.

Pastor: David Brown

Also attending: Ken Alich

6:36p Opening Prayer, Chair Jamie Gregg

Pastor’s Report

1. Sunday’s vote:
   a. Pastor Dave met with Pastor Dan, conversation of mechanics of sharing space from questions that arose from Town Hall meetings.
      i. Safe sanctuary not official adopted policy, NHCC best practice is 2 adults with kids & adults who work with children have a background check.
      ii. Use sanitizer at IG Community Center when working with others would expect to continue the practice.
      iii. Discussion of configuration of fellowship hall seating for their worship & quick transition of table availability for fellowship time following worship.
      iv. Window of time considerations for conclusion of worship coordinating for fellowship time
      v. Practice/experience of hosting celebration of life/funeral held at funeral home and weddings were in the community as sites.
      vi. Yes, do have some materials/supplies that they’d like storage for.
      vii. Possibilities of doing/serving/learning together: Dave Ramsey Financial Principals course, Vacation Bible School conversations of collaboration, Night to Unite- National Night Out, etc
   b. What does proposal and ballet look like? Conversation, discussion.
      i. Board Chair, Jamie, bring proposal to congregation, Posted on wall, Person write Yes or No on paper

Motion Made/2nd/unanimously Approved. Darlene Ashley/Kathy Behrendt. To present the proposal of: (listed below) to the congregation on Sunday, April 10 for consensus yes/no vote.

New Heights worships in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning at the same time

Mt Bethel is welcome to take advantage of New Heights Sunday School for children,

Both congregations share fellowship time after worship in the Fellowship Hall,

Pastor's office is available for both pastors during the week,

There may be opportunities for shared worship and shared mission in the future,

New Heights will share expenses at $400/month.

2. Changing Congregational Trends survey, conversation on point #7

      i. Proposal/quote of $17,000 removable of aged equipment, no construction, delivery/insolation of equipment: gas range & oven, corner pot & pan sink, dishwasher w/sanitation booster heater, hot food cabinet.

Lay Leader Report, Polly Tabbert

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Motion Made/2nd/unanimously Approved Kathy Behrendt/Darlene Ashley To make donation of $50 to DS Clay Ogelsee retirement celebration.

5. Technology upgrade Sanctuary:
      i. April 3, worship visual demo using Sony laser LCD projector.
         1. Verbal estimate of 2 projectors, 3cat wiring to both, 2 ceiling mounts, wireless capability, surge protector $15,000.
         2. 1 projector using existing cabling, ceiling mount, wireless capability, surge protector $6500ish In future will have opportunity for acoustic panel demo

Finance Report Submitted Linda Emerson Chair
Motion Made/2nd/Approved Polly Tabbert, Mark Zahn Approve Feb Finance report

6. February General Ministry and Mortgage Fund
   i. Financial Secretary and Treasurer Income reports agree.
      1. 2016 Beginning Balance $ 13,059.24
      2. 2016 Income as of Feb 29 $ 30,898.85
      3. 2016 Expense as of Feb 29 $ 31,820.55
   ii. Year to Date Income vs Expense ($ 921.70)
      1. General Fund ($577.86)
      2. Mortgage Fund ($343.84)
   iii. Funds currently available $ 12,137.54

b. Information
   i. Mortgage: Current balance is $347,595.17. Amount applied to principal is $2245.91 this month
   ii. Igelsia Cristiana Church is currently behind in their lease agreement for rent and for snow removal.
   iii. The profit/loss sheet looks like ABM owes us for Sanitation/trash pick-up. That is really not true as the director was out of the country and paid Jan and Feb in Dec 2015. It inadvertently got deposited in Dec. This will look odd for the whole year. That is why the rent is at less than 100% also. The kitchen rent of $100 per month ($200 for Jan and Feb) was deposited Dec 2015
   iv. Payroll: Secretary at 69.2%. Due to the every tw- week pay schedule and the budget figured per month, Secretary will get three paychecks in March and this should be closer to 100% in March.
   v. You will notice on the Profit & Loss Year to Date report a new item at the bottom #6000 Capital Improvement. This is the furnace repair. The check for $2400 from Hanlon to cover the cost of the furnace repair will be deposited in March. The expense will show on the report all year, but the income will be less obvious but was done according to standard accounting procedures.
      1. Had this been transferred from Hanlon to Bremer in Feb- our YTD income vs expense would have been almost $1500. We are doing very well this year!
   vi. Investments: Edward Jones and Hanlon continue to show a loss. Vanguard, unknown. We only get a quarterly statement and the next is due the end of March.
   vii. Beginning the process of exploring re-financing mortgage.
   viii. Questions, clarification contact Linda Emerson.

c. Quick Books reports attached as pdf’s
   i. Profit and Loss
   ii. Balance Sheet
   iii. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual – to determine the yearly status, take the net income from this form and subtract the amount that we have paid on the mortgage principal from the Balance Sheet. In financial circles, the Mortgage principal is considered Long Term Liability NOT an Expense.
   iv. Assets available for budget use – Subtract the Liability and Equity from the Assets to determine how much of this is available for on-going expenses.

7. Trustees see below report from Chair Barb Mahovlich
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a. Igelsia Cristiana Church renting space conversation and discussion on lack of meeting lease agreement expectations. ICC made partial payments in January & February. Lease agreement identifies that the Landlord/MB can find remedies. Conversation – Discussion.

Motion Made/2nd/unanimously Approved Darlene Ashley/Mark Zahn, Direct the Trustees to notify IG Church, end the lease at expiration of agreement, June 30, 2016 and give IGC the opportunity to rent the fellowship hall upon request.

b. All Church cleaning April 16th, 8:30a-11am Special request pray for nice weather to get lots of outdoor chores done.

8. Nominations Team is beginning to identify 2016-2017 elected leadership. Will be transitions of those who are ending 3 or more years of serving. Nominations team will be contacting elected leadership whose term is concluding. Thank you for your generous, faithful serving in Jesus name.

9. Worship Team: report submitted by co-chair Joann Larson & Kathy Behrendt
   i. We are finished with the Lenten/Easter season events. It was meaningful and a very special season. Our next project is to prepare for Mother's Day.

10. Closing prayer 8:17 by Jamie Gregg

Next meeting, May, 18, 2016 at 6:30pm
Respectfully submitted by Polly Tabbert, Lay Leader

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11. MOE March-April Report submitted by co-chairs Tim & Ellen Bomstad
   a. Next meeting – May 23, 2016 – 6:30 pm
   b. Lenten Soup Supper – served March 2, 2016 approximately 55 in attendance
   c. Partner with Listening House – Next Steps - contributed a sponsorship donation, Jamie Gregg involved in this mission
   d. Donations to Simley All Night Party; Teen Challenge
   e. Neighbors
      i. March Food Shelf - Mount Bethel collected 299 pounds and $135
   f. Mount Bethel Garden – sign-up sheet, three have expressed interest – meeting to be scheduled
   g. One Great Hour of Sharing – March 6, 2016 – $300 collected
   h. Feed My Starving Children - Wednesday, March 30, 2016 from 6-7:30 - 15 attended;
      i. Next scheduled Wednesday, June 22, 2016 from 6-7:30. 20 spots reserved
   i. Back to School Bash – kick-off meeting at St. Pat’s Church March 31, 2016 – Contributing to backpack purchase
   j. Operation Christmas Child – informational meeting April 2, 2016 – trying something new this year, will begin collecting items for all age groups beginning in May for a church box packing event in November. Watch for more information to come!
   k. Hilltop Elementary Partnering
      i. Grant Proposal – submitted 2/25/16, selections will be made in April and distributed in May
      ii. Email of support sent – offer to provide ice cream sundaes with lunch on date that is best
      iii. Earth Day opportunity?
   l. Effective June 30, 2016 Tim and Ellen resign as co-chairs.

12. Trustee Report, Chair Barb Mahovlich
To the Ad Board,

   I am sorry I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 6th. But I want to give you as much information that I can regarding our arrangements with Igelsia Cristiana Church. I have contacted our liability insurance agent, Todd, from Church Mutual, and in answer to my questions about our liability because IC no longer is able to obtain insurance, he indicated that "most likely" Mt. Bethel's policy would cover damages incurred by IC, but each situation is unique. He said that if they were an actual "mission" of our church, they would unquestionably be covered. He could also provide them a minimal policy for about $600/yr.

   After canvassing the Trustee via email, I received feedback from 4 of 8 other members, myself excluded, about their thoughts regarding IC being behind in the rent payments for this year under the new lease agreement. Those 4
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indicated a discomfort in continuing our current lease arrangement, which expires on June 30th. According to that lease, IC could already be technically in default for late rent payments and not having insurance. However they need to receive written notice from the Landlord, which as of yet, has not happened. The lease language is technical and under sections 20 and 21 of the lease, there are listed "Landlord's Remedies for Tenant's Default," and "Landlord's Additional Remedies, Waivers, and Miscellaneous," which gives us options.

I personally feel that, although the Trustees Committee is responsible for administration of the lease agreement, it should be an Ad Board decision about how we proceed under the current circumstances. I perceive a level of frustration from the committee members, but a willingness to be responsive to the wishes of the Ad Board and the Mt. Bethel congregation. Several ideas have been suggested that are all worthy of discussion such as "rent payment prior to access." If I can possibly get to the meeting after my obligation is met, I will try to join the meeting.

Sincerely, Barb Mahovlich.

*Iglesia Cristiana Church made payment in January & February. Lease agreement identifies that the Landlord/MB can find remedies.

13. Staff Pastor Parish Relations team met on Monday, March 14, 2016 5pm.
April 13-30th Pastor Dave Vacation, 2 Sunday’s vacation from pulpit. We welcome to the pulpit while Pastor Dave is on vacation, his friend, Rev. JoAnne Amaral. Rev JoAnne is an ordained elder on Family Leave in the Minnesota Annual Conference. She is passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. She lives in Afton, MN with her husband and daughters, and loves traveling and gardening. Contact Jill Lewis if a pastoral emergency arises for Rev JoAnne Ameral is available in case of emergency.

14. Lay Leader, Polly Tabbert Action item for our consideration. Making a financial donation to Clay Oglesbee's "farewell gathering" .... Clay has served/led us well in his tenure as DS.
Dear River Valley District Pastors/Church Lay Leaders,
Our District Committee on Superintendency and Strategy has been busy planning a "farewell as D.S." event for D.S. Clay Oglesbee. Hopefully, your calendars are marked for Sunday, May 22, 4-6:30, at Christ UMC in Rochester. Formal invitations are being sent this week.
Expenses for this event will include a meal and a band. There is no funding available through the conference or the district. Our committee members, all volunteers, are contributing personally for a gift for Clay and Mary Lynn; they should not have the additional burden of personally paying for the expenses of hosting this party.
Clay has done an outstanding job of supporting the churches in our district for the past eight years. This is our opportunity to thank him by hosting a farewell gathering. Would you or your church be able to make a contribution toward this event? If so, please send a check to Christ UMC, 400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902. Please note "for Clay's farewell" in the memo line. Thank you!
Please invite others from your church to this event, which will be terrific! RSVPs are requested to aid in our planning and should be sent to Pastor Beth Perez at pastorperez@frontier.com. Invitations will be sent to district pastors and church lay leaders within the next few days. We hope to see you there!
Blessings, Jane Stone District Lay Leader & Chair, DCOSS

Referenced in Pastor’s report. Item #2

Roozen and his colleagues have developed ways to monitor the pulse of congregational life. Every five years Faith Communities Today provides a marvelous service to all churches through their very thorough survey of religious congregations across the United States. Sociologist David A. Roozen and his colleagues have developed ways to monitor the pulse of congregational life.

The 2015 report captures both continuity and change among U.S. congregations. Perhaps the biggest change since 2010 was the dramatic decline in multi-religious activity by churches reported in last month’s Update (Sunday is Not a Presidential Primary). Here are some of the other findings.

1 Growth and change go together “In a rapidly changing world,” the report says, “thriving congregations are nearly ten times more likely to have changed themselves than are struggling congregations.” So churches that grow have to change, but there is no assurance in the uncertain religious landscape of today that a particular
change will be effective. This may be one reason the “willingness to change to meet new challenges” has dropped from 74 percent to just under 62 percent in the past ten years.

2 Change and conflict go together For many years these surveys have shown two recurring themes. First, churches willing to change, especially in worship, are more likely to grow. Second, when there has been a major conflict in recent years, the church is not likely to grow. This report concludes that there is a subtle interplay between change and conflict that cannot be avoided but must be understood and engaged. Here is what happens. Change is required for growth. Change leads to conflict. Conflict, if not kept to manageable levels, leads to decline. There is no escaping that change creates tension and a sense of loss by some people. Those pursuing change do well to recognize this reality and do those things necessary to lessen the degree of conflict change produces. Churches must get over their aversion to any conflict while taking great care to pace and interpret change sensitively.

3 Growth and spiritual vitality go together It turns out that the debate about whether churches should focus on reaching more people or growing spiritual vitality among current members misses the point about how growth and spiritual vitality relate to each other. A growing church is more likely to be more spiritually vital, and a declining church is more likely to be less spiritually vital. Fewer than 20 percent of declining churches reported that they had high spiritual vitality while almost 36 percent of growing churches reported high spiritual vitality. The likelihood is that those things churches do to reach new people also enrich current members, and those things churches do to deepen the spiritual vitality of current members make new members more likely.

4 Worship changes often lead to growth “Whatever a congregation’s sense of innovation in worship,” says the report, “one thing has remained constant over our 15 years of surveys — namely the strong relationship that changing worship has to both growth and spiritual vitality.” It appears that in the last five years fewer churches are making such changes. When asked if a congregation had changed the style of any of its worship services in the past five years or added a new service with a different style, those reporting no change or only a minor change jumped from 68 percent to 78 percent from 2010 to 2015, and those adding a new service of a different style dropped to just over 4 percent.

5 Young adults are increasingly scarce in churches While over 20 percent of the U.S. population is 18-34 years old, the report finds that only 10 percent of congregations reach that level of participation by young adults. While this has historically been a group less represented in church, today’s young adults are less religiously affiliated or even interested than in past times. No one doubts the challenge facing churches seeking to reach younger generations. What may be surprising is that only one in ten congregations make reaching young adults their priority but, for those that do, they are five times more likely to have a thriving young adult ministry than churches for which it is not a priority.

6 Laity reach other laity While only 14 percent of congregations say their laity are quite or very involved in reaching new people, the more laity are involved in recruitment, the more likely growth is and, as the report puts it, “the effect is dramatic.” Of the churches that grew two percent or more in the past five years, fully 90 percent of them said that laity have “a lot of involvement” in reaching new people.

7 Distinguish yourself in the community A consistent finding from the beginning of this survey is that churches that are seen as different in some way from other churches are more likely to grow. Do your members tend to think your church is about like other churches in your community? If the answer is positive, there’s a good chance your church is not growing. Churches can see themselves as distinctive without arrogance or superiority. They are not saying they are necessarily better or that all churches should be like them. Rather, such churches believe God has called them to a distinctive ministry for their time and place.