

St. John UMC Leadership Board Training

Date & Time:	Friday, January 27, 2023, 6 p.m.
Location:	St. John UMC Fellowship Hall
Pastors in attendance:	Rev. Dana Everhart, Rev. Jenny Anderson
Leadership Board in attendance:	Charles Dixon (Chair), Rich Bias (Finance Committee Chair), Sawyer Branham (Finance Committee & Young Adult Representative), Tonya Currier (Staff Parish Relations & Annual Conference Representative), Jim Garvey (Resident Storyteller), Stephanie Quattlebaum (Mission and Ministries Representative), Allen Smith (Staff Parish Relations & Lay Leader), Warren Spooner (Trustees Chair), Sarah Thomas (Trustees), Georgia Vesely (Finance Committee), Alison Wright (Council Secretary)

Dinner and fellowship were enjoyed by the group.

Agenda Details:

- I. Welcome (10 mins) – Dana welcomed the Leadership Board, and introductions were made. He offered I Corinthians 15:58 to the group as a spiritual foundation and a guide for the year. (“Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your work is not in vain.” Dana provided an overview of the two-day Board Training: Discover and Review; Goals; Objectives and Strategies.

- II. Group Covenant (56 mins) – The Leadership Board worked to form the covenant in which they will work together this year. It is:
 - a. Follow the way of Jesus and pray for one another
 - b. Fortright communication and honesty in a safe space where everyone’s ideas have value
 - c. All fully engaged (no cell phones; no interruptions)
 - d. Speaking in unity holding the sacred trust of confidentiality
 - e. Holding myself and one another accountable
 - i. Observing assignments and deadlines
 - ii. Coming prepared to meetings
 - iii. Staying on task
 - iv. Interact with purpose

- III. Church and Community Past and Present (38 minutes) – Dana provided statistics for St. John such as membership, professions of faith, average worship attendance, and budget in recent years. Tonya pointed out that the membership number seemed too high. There was interest in doing a membership audit and making a correction in the near future. Dana also shared data on the demographics on the area surrounding St. John, and he reminded the Board that St. John is to serve the community around the church.

- IV. Closing – Dana closed the evening with prayer and adjourned the Friday night meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Date & Time:	Saturday, January 28, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Location:	St. John UMC Fellowship Hall
Pastors in attendance:	Rev. Dana Everhart, Rev. Jenny Anderson
Leadership Board in attendance:	Charles Dixon (Chair), Rich Bias (Finance Committee Chair), Sawyer Branham (Finance Committee & Young Adult Representative), Tonya Currier (Staff Parish Relations & Annual Conference Representative), Jim Garvey (Resident Storyteller), Stephanie Quattlebaum (Mission and Ministries Representative), Allen Smith (Staff Parish Relations & Lay Leader), Warren Spooner (Trustees Chair), Sarah Thomas (Trustees), Georgia Vesely (Finance Committee), Alison Wright (Council Secretary), Marie Young (Staff Parish Relations)

Breakfast items and fellowship were enjoyed by the group.

Agenda Details:

- I. Opening (3 mins) – Jenny announced that the Trustees met, and Warren will be the Chair of Trustees. Sarah will be the Secretary. Rich shared that the Endowment Committee met, and the minutes are not done yet. He shared that \$121,000 is available if the Leadership Board makes that approval. Alison opened with prayer.
- II. Revisiting the Covenant (3 minutes) – Dana let the group know that the Covenant must be revisited whenever a new person joins. Dana presented the Covenant since Marie had not been in attendance Friday evening. Marie agreed to the covenant. All Board members signed the Covenant, and the signed copy was given to Alison
- III. Projected Worship Attendance in Five Years (13 mins) – Dana asked each Board member to write down the number of people they think St. John will have attending worship on average five years from now. The numbers were given to Alison to be averaged. While that was being done discussion ensued (Tonya suggested the notebook given to Board members be made digital. Jim noted the renaissance taking place in downtown Augusta. Tonya asked about Board members attending meetings by Zoom if they were traveling, and Dana said that can be done. Charles suggested Sundays after church as the meeting time. Warren noted the distinction between opinions and observations.) Alison announced that the average of the Board members' projections for average worship attendance was 201 people. Dana suggested this number be kept within the Board and that all Board members keep record of it and keep it before themselves.
- IV. Core Values (39 minutes) – Dana presented a series of questions and asked the Board member to respond.
 - a. "What makes St. John different?" – Responses included traditional, music, inclusivity, lake property, facility, history (back to the 18th century), broader support of the arts, downtown location, have a Wesley Woods facility very close,

Mead House, passionate about intergenerational work, historic Sanctuary, host to interdenominational group DCCM, physically close to Wesley Foundation.

- b. “What is it that attracts people to St. John or turns them away?” – Responses included traditional worship, Kindermusik, Wednesday Night Suppers, inclusivity, location, bathrooms, parking lot, lack of play/outdoor space, choir, welcoming, not judgmental, lake property, lack of fellowship, lack of youth and youth programs, weddings not taking place at St. John as they used to, UMC dispute, empty pews and older congregation, lack of early worship opportunity.
 - c. “What is it that attracts people to St. John?” – Responses included Concerts with a Cause, inclusion, smaller (not a megachurch where people might feel lost).
 - d. “Why are you at this church?” – Responses included feeling comfortable here, music program, the people, values, reputation, style of welcoming, worship and liturgy, downtown church, love of Christ.
 - e. “What do you think people who come to St. John are looking for?” – Responses included sense of belonging, acceptance, community, a sense of purpose/to be part of building the Kingdom of God, are in a spiritual crisis.
- V. Setting our Core Values (34 mins) – Dana asked the Board members to work in three small groups to use answers to the preceding questions and consider our Core Values.
- VI. Sharing (40 mins) – The three groups shared their ideas on our Core Values.
- VII. Determining our Core Values (31 mins) – Dana helped the Board use information that had been discussed to determine our Core Values. The outcome was an illustration of a three-legged stool. The top (seat) represents the value of being Christ-focused. The three legs represent the values of Radical Inclusion, Service, and Worship. Dana reminded the group that each of these might need further explanation; for example, inclusion is broad, including people with disabilities, etc. Rich noted that balance is needed between the three legs. Dana reminded the group that one can be focused on at a time. Sawyer offered to create a graphic of the stool showing the values.
- VIII. Vision Introduction (3 mins) – Dana prepped the group for work that would be done after lunch on determining a vision. He pointed out that the vision would be uniquely St. John’s as opposed to the mission which is given by the UMC.
- IX. St. John’s Vision for the Next Five Years (41 mins) – Dana guided the Board to work in three small groups to discuss the vision. The groups then reported to the whole and worked together to form the vision. It is, “Honoring our past while sharing the joy of Christ with the community and purposefully building a place where all people can share their talents as we grow together.”
- X. Setting Goals (76 mins) – Dana talked with the Board about goals. Board members were asked to work in three small groups to come up with three goals: a one-year goal, a midterm goal, and a five year goal. Groups shared their goals and discussion. Then the Board crafted three goals:

- One year – Reevaluate and prioritize the ministry and mission opportunities while reaching out to those who are absent from the family.
 - Midterm – Actively engage with the All-Saints Project (formerly Augusta UMC Partnership).
 - Five year – Become a thriving and growing church welcoming active worshippers with facilities that allow us to reach out to the community in a purposeful way.
- XI. Developing SMARTER Goals (13 mins) – The Board returned to working in three small groups. Each group was given one of the goals and asked to make it into a SMARTER goal. This work was begun but not completed. It will be completed at a future meeting.
- XII. Guiding Principles (34 mins) – Dana told the Board that Guiding Principles need to be determined. Examples can be found on pages 262-263 of the provided book. One week prior to Leadership Board meetings the Consent Agenda, Minutes, Financial Statement, and other needed documents should be sent to the Board. Dana reminded the Board that they are to help the Pastor stay accountable to the goals.
- XIII. Communion and Closing – Dana provided Communion to the Board and adjourned the training at 3:14 p.m.
- XIV. Finance Report (15 mins) – Rich provided a Financial Report. He said the draft budget (not yet approved) for this year is \$599,000. This includes a \$55,000 increase over last year in the staff line because we are now fully staffed. The current number of pledges is 80% of last year's pledges. More income is needed to cover this year's budget. Last year \$80,000 from the Endowment allowed for a balanced budget. This year, Trustees approved \$20,000 for the parsonage, and \$121,000 is available. Finally, Rich shared that going forward two reports will be given: balance fund & income and expense.
- XV. Meeting Dates (14 mins) – Charles facilitated the decision on upcoming meeting dates. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 p.m. Georgia offered to bring lunch. Board members were encouraged to begin eating when they arrive, and the meeting will start at 12:30 with a Google Meet option provided. All documents needed for the meeting should be sent to Board members one week ahead by Christina. Future meetings will be on the fourth Sunday of the month, except the November meeting date could be moved earlier due to Thanksgiving.
- XVI. Closing – Warren closed the group in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.