



St. John UMC Leadership Board Meeting

Date & Time:	Sunday, January 21, 2024, 12:15 p.m.
Location:	St. John UMC room 108
Pastors in attendance:	Rev. Jenny Anderson
Leadership Board in attendance:	Charles Dixon (Leadership Board Chair & Trustees), Mark Barron (Finance), Rich Bias (Finance—Chair), Greg Capers (Trustees—Chair), Tonya Currier (Staff Parish Relations & Annual Conference Representative), Karen Phelps (New Member), Allen Smith (Staff Parish Relations & Lay Leader), Denise St. Clair (Staff Parish Relations), Sarah Thomas (Trustees—Secretary), Georgia Vesely (Finance Committee), Alison Wright (Council Secretary) Absent: Stephanie Quattlebaum (Mission and Ministries Representative)
Church members/staff:	None

Agenda Details:

- I. Opening (1 min) – The meeting was opened at 12:12 p.m. and the board was welcomed. An opening prayer was said.
- II. Spiritual Formation (13 mins) – Each Board member shared how they had seen God this week.
- III. Leadership Equipping (1 min) – The board was shown the 2023 Leadership Board notebook that was put together. It was noted that Guiding Principles will be modified as needed each year. The board will be emailed the current Guiding Principles to the new members of the Leadership Board.
- IV. Review of New People (8 mins) –
 - a. It was shared that a couple joined St. John today. Another family continues to visit, and people have been visiting from churches that have disaffiliated. The 2023 year-end report with a total of 14 new members and three clergy was shared.
 - b. It was shared from our worship technician that our Christmas Eve service online attendance was high compared to other churches. Sunday morning online viewership is increasing. It was also shared that there are around 30 people

online every Sunday. By comparison, the average UMC congregation is 36 people. Several Board members noted the improved tech/sound/live stream.

- V. Goal Review and Accountability (6 mins) – The board was reminded of the mission, vision, and core values at the top of the meeting agenda.
 - a. One-year goal (Reevaluate and prioritize the ministry and mission opportunities while reaching out to those who are absent from the family.) – A lot has been done related to internal operations (staffing, computers, plaster work, organizing offices and paperwork, etc.) but all is still not complete.
 - b. Midterm goal (Actively engage with the All Saints Project.) – It was shared that there will probably be a pivot. Aldersgate UMC will join and the group will probably not be called a Collective any longer. The Ash Wednesday event at Augusta Commons will take place this year. The contract with consultant Mark DeYmaz ended and will not be renewed at this time, one reason stated being the difficulty of having a long-distance consultant (Little Rock, Arkansas).
- VI. Packet and Consent Calendar Items (1 min) – The board was reminded that Packet and Consent Items are usually due the Monday before a meeting, and Board Members' homework is to read the items when they are emailed. The minutes from the November and December 2023 meetings were addressed. The board was asked for any discussion. There was none. The Board voted on the minutes with new Board members abstaining. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- VII. Generative and Strategic Work (62 mins) -
 - a. Trustees (8 mins) – Greg was announced as the Trustees Chair. Greg shared his related background and experience while noting that he is still learning as Trustees Chair. He reported on the ongoing plasterwork through the church facilities and the need to address the flashing at the front door of the Sanctuary. Greg said he has been updated on Richard (Facilities Manager) and the Endowment. He will get with Warren to transfer Trustees information and will get access to the Gmail account Warren set up for Trustees business. It was said the finance chair and Greg should get together related to Finance and Trustees. Finally, the board was reminded that we are the Trustees.
 - b. SPR (13 mins) –
 - i. It was reported that the church Financial Manager (Mea Holmes) resigned. Kristina Hawkes has been hired with glowing references and will begin on January 22. There was a remark on how quickly the new hire need was able to be addressed. It was pointed out this as a good example of how things can happen quickly with the Simplified, Accountable Structure model of the Leadership Board. It was shared financial work is now caught up from an approximately two-month backlog from Mea being out of the office. The finance chair and others were for their help. Kristina can be trained by a staff member and the Finance Chair. The Board was reminded that per the Guiding Principles, three people have financial login, and this has been changed for the third person (Mea removed). A question was asked about Kristina's hours. They will be similar to the previous Financial Manager and will be 15 hours/week.
 - ii. The Board was asked to host the March 27 Wednesday Night Dinner, and the Board agreed.
 - iii. A question was asked about registration for the January 28 District Training Day. Jenny said Board members can choose to attend.

- c. Finance (41 mins) –
- i. The Revenue Budget to go with the Expense Budget in the Consent Packet was distributed. IT was noted there are no prepaid pledges for 2024 while there were \$110,000 in 2023. The Preliminary Income & Expenses by Fiscal/Calendar Year was also distributed.
 - ii. The Board reviewed the Finance Team Report. It was noted there is the need for an audit given all the changes that have taken place. Unfortunately, an audit is costly. Contact has been made with some companies that could do the audit, and the hope is that a recommendation can be made to the Board in the future. The Board was asked for suggestions. The idea was raised of the AU Business School doing the audit as a project with the church remaining anonymous. A board member will ask Kelly Thomas to contact the Business School about this.
 - iii. The Special Projects Status in the Finance Team Report was extrapolated upon. The Board thinks the computer wi-fi upgrade is done, and the bill will come soon. The sound system upgrade took place by donation, and the donor needs to be thanked. The pastor will thank the donor after getting the go-ahead from the finance chair.
 - iv. The Preliminary Balance Sheet for December 2023 was distributed. It was noted the Operational Reserve around \$80,000 as well as \$14,575 income from the 225th Anniversary.
 - v. Requested Agenda Item: Final 2023 Finances (leave deficit or transfer funds to cover?) The Finance Team recommended to leave the deficit. The Leadership Board voted and unanimously approved to leave the deficit.
 - vi. Requested Agenda Item: Finance Report to the Congregation. After discussion, the Board voted and unanimously approved a finance report to the congregation to communicate the current status of the budget/deficit as well as projects completed. This is to happen through an announcement from the pulpit by Charles on February 25 along with a letter/infographic in News From the Pews, on monitors, and in the slide rotation for the livestream. The Pastor and Finance Chair will have discretion on the information to communicate, and the Office Administrator will create the infographic. The Leadership Board should be asked to stand when Charles speaks on February 25.

VIII. Communication (11 mins) –

- a. The Board reviewed the business that took place at today's meeting. A question was asked concerning if there is a way to get minutes from Leadership Board meetings on the website sooner, or if we should stay with the current procedure. This will be discussed at the Leadership Board Retreat in February. Plans for the retreat were reviewed.
- b. The Board will be given the previous month-end financial information at meetings when they are on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- c. Thanks was expressed to the Leadership Board members and noted the progress that has been made in a year.
- d. It was shared that the *Mission Possible* book by Kay Kotan is available for new Board members.

IX. Next Meeting (0 mins) – Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m. (covered in Communication section)

X. Closing (<1 min) – A closing prayer was said, and the meeting was adjourned.