

# **Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church**

## **Leadership Board Meeting**

**December 15, 2020**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom**

The meeting began shortly after 7:00. Attending: Pastor Leah Williams, Nancy Shinn, Grace Mahon, David Deibler-Gorman, Martha Root, Travis Curry, Doug Hess, Becky Rice, Melissa Morgan and Patty Johnston. Our church treasurer, Doug Winner, and our church financial secretary, Kerry Shirk, were also in attendance.

Doug Hess opened with a devotional reading from Matthew 7: 31-34. He shared with us why this was such a meaningful passage for him, with Leah adding her own thoughts.

Doug Winner then led us through the financial reports. Of note: the large offering for November, explained by a large singular donation and the fact that there were 5 Sundays that month. We are not meeting our monthly need through offerings and other sources. Because we have over \$60,000 in COVID funds still available, we can sustain the losses for approximately the next 12 months. If the capital campaign debt can be retired this year and giving levels continue to include donations now designated to that purpose, we will balance that deficit.

Doug will be able to send another \$4,000 to reduce the mortgage debt before the end of the year.

He also noted that our 2021 budget calls for expenditures of \$250,00. Year to date offerings have been about \$150,000. Leah shared that she and the DS are in the process of applying for a conference grant to cover her salary. We don't know if her other benefits are included. Should that be offered, we would save about \$45,000. The application will be completed tomorrow.

Travis reported on the Stewardship campaign. Giving envelopes are currently being delivered. We have pledges of just over \$95,000 from about 32 giving units. Some people have indicated they will continue to give, but do not wish to make a formal pledge. Follow-up phone calls and contacts were made to all who had not submitted a pledge. At this point, we have received more pledges than at this time last year. Additionally, many congregants have opted to receive quarterly statements via email, saving some postage. Nancy asked about documentation for tax purposes, and Travis affirmed that end-of-year giving statements would be sent.

Nancy reported on Busy Beaver (BB). Because a staff member was exposed to COVID and she and her family are now symptomatic, BB baby and crawler rooms had to close for a deep clean and will remain closed until Jan. 11. Classes for older children will continue through the planned date of Dec. 22. The BB team had already determined that closing the center during the holiday week and after until Jan. 11 would be the safest course of action given the surge seen after Thanksgiving. There is historically low

attendance in the week between Christmas and New Year's anyway, so the additional week of closure will provide for any possible emergence of COVID cases to pass.

Because Kinderfolk follows the Lewisburg School District practices, it is currently closed. Jen is concerned that some students will not return after the closure ends which would affect their profitability.

Grace reported on the Zoom church conference meeting. At that time, Doug H. submitted the parsonage inspection report. Lorna Curry was also selected as our delegate to annual Conference in June and Lay Leader.

Doug W. and Kerry presented the case for getting an Amazon credit card. We would streamline purchases, receive a cash-back reward of 5% instead of 3% if using another credit card and be able to have BMUMC designated as a recipient of the charitable donation Amazon offers for each purchase. Not only will church purchases go toward that purpose, but individuals can designate it as their charity of choice through the Amazon Smile program. That will provide some additional income.

Grace informed us of a recognition project to express thanks and appreciation for Evangelical Hospital (Evan) employees. She is working with Weis Markets to provide a small gift (possibly a candy cane or something similar) that will be distributed by people at Evan during a shift change to reach the most employees. She will finalize this effort with Weis Markets tomorrow. She has already gotten permission for the project from Evan CEO Kendra Aucker. Grace will provide the public email address for anyone who wishes to express personal thanks to the health care providers as well.

At this point, we adjourned to executive session, and Doug W. and Kerry left the meeting. Those minutes are provided in a separate document.

David Deibler-Gorman volunteered to be the liaison to the Youth Group – many thanks! As her final duty, Becky reported for the youth program. Average attendance for gatherings is 15-20. Recent projects/events:

1. Lunch from Chipotle for fire dept
2. \$600 donation to Evangelical Hospital for COVID relief
3. Virtual secret Santa
4. Netflix party this weekend

Activities will resume Jan. 10. The youth are anxious for COVID to be controlled so they can take all the trips they had to postpone! Leah and the Board expressed thanks to Becky for her service on the Board and as liaison to the youth.

Leah also welcomed our 2 new members, Martha and David. Prayer requests were offered and joys expressed. Nancy offered our ending prayer.

The meeting ended at about 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Johnston