

# Northwest Hills UMC Board Minutes

645 pm September 16, 2014

**Members Present:** Associate Pastor Audrey Spencer; Neill Gruver, Board Chair; Les Broomall; Jean Leonard; Ken Moyer; Richard Wilkison; Gary Johnson; Daniel Dietz; Elliot Moulton; Patti Bizzell; Elizabeth Gunter.

**Members Absent:** Carol Wratten; Greg Gitcho, Brad Hoffman, Nancy Gibson, Allen Woelke and Pastor Charlie Baskin

**Recording Secretary:** Patti Bizzell

## **Opening Prayer:**

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m. Opening prayer given by Gary Johnson

## **Approval of minutes from August 26th meeting.**

Moved: approval by Les Broomall

Second: Jean Leonard

Vote: Unanimously passed

## **Trustee issues. Richard Wilkison**

### **. Electrical Utility fees vs. budget update**

Utility costs YTD are approximately \$2,500 over budget.

### **. New Issues ??**

It was necessary to purchase a new air conditioner unit for the Family Life Center. Cost was approximately \$11,000. In addition three other air conditioners required maintenance during the month of August. Cost for repairs was approximately \$1,200.

## **Financial issues. Les Broomall**

### **August Financial report:**

a. The MFH account balance was down almost \$24,000 in, partly because of planned capital expenditures as explained by Jackie's comments. They also did not budget the Administrative salaries correctly for the summer months and that caused about \$5,000 in expenditures over budget. Tuition and fees income for the summer program is below budget as is income for the part time program. MFH plans to refine their budget next year to more accurately reflect their expectations.

b. The church continues meeting our financial obligations except for paying the benevolence part of our apportionments with \$78,000 operating cash on hand thanks to the early payment of pledges in the February-March time frame. If we were paying the

benevolence part of our apportionments, our operating cash on hand would be \$43,440. Although our income from visitor offerings is only 45% of budget and income from members who did not pledge is only 84% of expectations, our overall income is almost right on budget thanks to pledged income of 102% and income from outside use of our facilities at 124% of budget. Expenses are only 93% of the budgeted amount, but that will take a hit in the September financial status with an air conditioner replacement and some air conditioner repairs.

c. The church's Operating and Money Market account at Compass Bank, all of the church's accounts at Texas Methodist Foundation and all of My Friend's House accounts at Compass Bank reconciled for the month of August.

**Audit of 2013 finances:**

a. The report of the audit of the 2013 finances of both the church and My Friends House was provided last month. We are working with MFH to prepare a formal response. Many thanks to Marty Donley, Bob Callison, and Paul Arismendez for their efforts on our behalf.

**Compass Bank Checking status:**

a. As a result of a bogus check being presented at Babies "R" Us, we were required to implement "Positive Pay" on our checking account where we send them a list of checks that were written and they process those checks. That has not been working properly. Pam uploads the list, but there is no responding verification and in some cases Compass apparently doesn't receive it. As a result, some checks have been refused. We have reissued those checks and reimbursed any bank fees that the recipients were charged. We are opening a new checking account without positive pay and after discussing our problems with positive pay with Compass bank, they have acquiesced to our cancelling positive pay.

**August Financials Approval**

Recommend approval from Finance Committee

Vote: Unanimously approved.

**SPRC Issues. Jean Leonard**

**. Update on Search for Eli's replacement**

Three candidates for the Contemporary Worship Service Director have been interviewed and auditions are being conducted. The new Children's Director is working to establish programs and communication with various groups.

**UMM update. Ken Moyer**

The Men's steak dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, 2014. Approximately 60 men have signed up.

Tickets are on sale for the Greater Vision group scheduled to be at the church on Friday, October 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Steel Magnolias women's quartet will also be on the program. Ken asked about having capability for web site sale of tickets. Audrey said that she will work with Fran to make that happen.

**UMW update. Neill Gruver for Nancy Gibson**

Neill reported that there was nothing new to report this month.

**Youth update. Elliot Moulton**

The youth will be serving communion the last Sunday of every month for the Contemporary Service.

The trip to Hawaiian Falls water park was rescheduled for this coming weekend because of inclement weather last weekend.

**Communications Team update. Audrey Spencer**

Several members mentioned items that need to be updated on the website and the telephone directory to remove information about prior employees and to provide information about current staff.

The carnival last weekend provided opportunities for church members to volunteer to welcome people from the community, the church and My Friends House. A follow-up meeting will be held to discuss suggestions concerning things that went well and ways to improve or change the carnival for the future. Audrey said that the church plans to be more intentional about including parents from My Friends House.

Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2014. Free eye exams will be available to those animals attending.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, November 30. Neill Gruver**

It was decided to combine Fifth Sunday activities with the Thanksgiving Dinner to be held one week earlier on Sunday, November 23.

**Healthy Church Initiative update. Neill Gruver for Charlie Baskin**

Charlie was on vacation so Neill talked about all of the documents that are now available concerning the Healthy Church Initiative. Board members were provided copies of the Mission Strategy, the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) Update, the Discipleship Path, and the Ministry Guide. He encouraged Board members to make this information available to church members.

## Looking ahead

### . Mission Focus for Advent. Neill Gruver for Charlie Baskin

Neill said that there will be a sermon services during Advent that includes video clips on benevolences. Board members reiterated the need to help raise funds for benevolences currently not available in the church's budget.

### . Stewardship project for 2015. Greg Gitcho

Last meeting, Neill had asked me to prepare a briefing of the stewardship program for this Fall (which is already upon us!). The program is entitled "Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life" and it fits very well with the theme of discipleship and ultimately with the mission of our church. The program is intended to encourage folks to take a step or two (or a leap) closer to being a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Each of the topics relate to an element of discipleship: prayer, bible reading, worship, witness, giving, and service. The sermons will obviously be geared toward each of these 6 topics, with only 1 Sunday during the series focused on giving financially. There will be weekly e-mails that are sent out, with the hope for other posts and tweets, etc. as well. Commitment cards are distributed to everyone (via mail, bulletin inserts, etc) for EACH of these components which offer an opportunity to reflect on where you are personally, and also an opportunity to consider and commit to taking a step or two closer toward a stronger commitment to Christ. So for example, the prayer commitment card reads like this:

Are you ready to grow in your prayer life? Check all that apply.

Today, I am not ready to make a commitment to pray.

Beginning today, I will pray when I am in a worship service.

Beginning today, I will pray every time I am facing a difficult decision.

Beginning today, I will try to pray daily.

Beginning today, I will pray daily, using a devotional guide.

Beginning today, I will pray daily, remembering the prayer requests shared in worship.

Beginning today, I will pray daily, using the weekly prayer list from the church.

Beginning today, I will pray daily, setting aside 15 minutes for daily devotional time.

Beginning today, I will pray daily and be in the church prayer chain or prayer group.

Prayer will be a priority in my life, growing to include the following: I will surround my family and friends with prayer. I will surround my church with prayer. Through prayer, I will find strength, power and direction to face the week. Through prayer, I will trust God with my life, my family, my job, my finances, and my immediate and eternal future. Through prayer, I will learn to love God with all my heart and to love my neighbors.

To conclude, I'll paraphrase a line from one of the introductory pages of the book ... this program seeks to promote that we're a high expectation church, focusing on discipleship, not just membership and periodic worship attendance. The idea is that the commitment cards show many of us (myself included, without a doubt) that there's plenty of opportunity to step it up a notch across all of these various disciplines.

**Other issues ??**

Ken Moyer addressed the issue of homeless visitors on the church's campus who are interrupting activities especially those involving children. Because of safety issues, it was determined that this issue should be monitored with the possibility of hiring security.

**Closing prayer** given by Audrey Spencer

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2014.**