

Leadership Board Meeting Minutes -with Amendments  
First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos, NM  
May 23, 2023

In Attendance: Linda Collier, Valerie Collins, Kim Granzow, Lynn Kluegel, Carol Mead, Rev. John Nash, Phillip Ortega, Julie Risch, Kathy Siebe, Camille Wescott.

Absent: Don Casperson, Nathaniel Morgan, Amy Worcester.

**Opening Prayer** was offered by Kim Granzow.

**1. Spiritual Formation and Equipping Leadership**

- a. The Spiritual Life Reflection card was discussed.
  - i. We are encouraged to choose something from the card to concentrate on for the next month then report at next month's meeting what you did or not do.
  - ii. Several people noted what they are going to work on.

**2. Engagement**

- a. Pastor John gave an update from the special conference meeting held May 20, 2023.
  - i. 33 churches have chosen to disaffiliate from UMC .
  - ii. 31 were voted on with 97% voting to allow disaffiliation.
  - iii. June 1, 2023 is official date when these churches are no longer part of UMC.
  - iv. 11 churches are still discussing and working through the disaffiliation process.
    - 1. The churches that complete the process by Annual Conference in June 2023 will be voted on prior to the beginning of the Annual conference.
  - v. Some people from the Carlsbad disaffiliated churches that want to continue as UMC met Sunday May 21,2023 to start a new UMC.
    - 1. People from the disaffiliated churches helped with the logistics to set up the new church.
  - vi. There are (still) 3 Districts in the NM Conference
    - 1. In the Clovis district many of the churches disaffiliated.
      - a. The DS is retiring.
      - b. Supervision of the 10 churches from the Clovis district that are remaining with UMC were split between the 2 District Superintendents (DS) of the El Paso and Albuquerque districts.
    - 2. Randall Partin, one of the DS, is also the Provost.
      - a. The provost is the administrative professional that assists the bishop, oversees the conference, and the staff.
      - b. Mr. Partin has done this job before.
    - 3. In the Albuquerque district 2 churches disaffiliated, Peralta and Farmington.
  - vii. Anyone with questions may contact Pastor John.
  - viii. Carol requested a list of the churches that disaffiliated as it will have a bearing on the work she does for UWF.
  - ix. It was initially anticipated that 8-10,000 churches will eventually disaffiliate.
    - 1. Currently it appears 5000 will disaffiliate
    - 2. About 2500 will join the Global Methodist Church and 2500 will join another denomination or remain independent.
- b. Update on new and continuing congregation engagement - Worship Attendance
  - i. More people are worshipping with LA-FUMC on line than was previously known.
  - ii. Other people have told Pastor John that they are joining worship online but have not checked in.
  - iii. The sources for online worship and church participation that include FUMC website, ChurchCenter app, Facebook, Vimeo, and You Tube were discussed.
  - iv. The highest number recently online was 2 weeks ago at 13.

1. Pastor John multiplies the number of people checked in by 2 to get an estimate of online participants.
- v. Worship attendance has averaged 50-60 in sanctuary and about 25 online.
- vi. Some first-time guests and new Los Alamos residents have attended worship.
- vii. Other families are at programming night but not services.
- c. Online streaming and Sound System
  - i. Phillip and Gabe Stewart, from Gabe Stewart Sound, are working on a proposal for upgrading the sound board, sound for streaming, and camera.
  - ii. The proposal should be available for next Leadership Board meeting.
  - iii. Several people have expressed interest in a streaming team.
    1. They will work on developing fellowship opportunities and activities that people online can participate in like Sunday school, Programming night.
    2. Linda C. volunteered for the team.
  - d. "VBS" will be children focused and may be held in last 2 weeks of Aug. during programming night.
3. **Approval of minutes: Motion:** Camille moved and Julie second that the minutes be approved as amended. Motion passed.
4. **Finances - Review Financial report and discuss**
  - a. FUMC received the LANL regular gift in May which helps the budget but is not reflected on the April financial page; will be in the May finances.
  - b. Some people make pledge through United Way.
  - c. Giving was down \$13,000 compared to 2022.
    - i. Giving by those making regular contributions is down by \$19,085.
    - ii. Contributions are normally less in the summer.
  - d. Occasionally there is a higher expense one month that will be off set later in the year when payments for the expense are made.
  - e. Amy recommends putting money that is currently not being used into a money market account where it will generate interest.
    - i. Money is not being moved in and out of savings and checking accounts as it has been in the past.
    - ii. If the amount in the money market account goes below \$20,000 there is a penalty. If it appears that may occur, all funds can be moved out of the money market account without a penalty.
    - iii. **Motion:** Kim moved, Camille second, that at least \$20,000 be moved into a Century Bank Business Liberty Money Market account. Motion passed.
    - iv. Pastor John collected the needed signatures for this.
5. **Reports - topics that need further discussion**
  - a. Ark
    - i. Linda Nash will begin her new job June 5, 2023, as UNM-LA manager of adult education for English as a Second Language and GED.
    - ii. Shanice, Linda Nash, and Pastor John discussed this change and posted the Ark assistant director position.
      1. There are current Ark employees interested in the job.
      2. The person hired as assistant director must have the credentials to meet the state regulations
      3. And must be capable of being a temporary acting director should the director be absent.
  - b. FUMC staff
    - i. Job descriptions
      1. Will be reviewed and updated in July.

2. Staff will review their job descriptions to determine if the description matches what they are doing.
  - ii. Amy and Jolene Hatler have been working on the Church Employee Manual.
- c. Nominations Committee
  - i. Pastor John, Crystal, and Geniece have discussed several nominations.
  - ii. Pastor John has talked to a few other people regarding committees but has not heard back yet.
- d. Endowment committee
  - i. A plan is being worked on so that people can name the church in their estate plans.
  - ii. Tom Ricketts was nominated for the endowment committee which will fill that roster.
    1. Leadership Board voted to accept Tom as a member of the endowment committee.
- e. Church Building
  - i. The electrician said the control switch on the garbage disposal is not working but he has not returned to repair it yet.
  - ii. Valerie asked Rafael to turn the heaters back on as sanctuary was cold Wednesday during choir practice and Sunday morning.
    1. Pastor John turned the heat down to 60 but it can be changed when needed.
- f. Summer sermons
  - i. Pastor John's state of the church address will be given June 25, 2023.
  - ii. Pastor John will be using the Star Wars movies in a sermon series.
  - iii. SALA has agreed to show them.
  - iv. Real Deal had closed caption equipment in the past.
    1. Kim has asked SALA if they have the equipment but has not heard back.
    2. John will give SALA a DVD that has closed captioning.
  - v. Licensing for showing the Star Wars movies is covered by the church CVLI license, a part of the CCLI streaming package license that allows the church broadcast it.
    1. SALA may allow a private showing without infringing on copy rights.
    2. FUMC cannot advertise the show.
    3. Members of the congregation can invite friends to come and watch it with them.

## 6. Goal Review and Accountability Conversation

- a. Pastor John had planned to discuss the goals during worship but has not done so yet due to the number of other subjects that are being covered. He plans to discuss the goals when they can be highlighted.
- b. #1. Increase outreach opportunities is going well.
- c. #2. Building Maintenance Committee
  - i. The committee does not exist yet.
  - ii. John Courtright requested the email addresses for Dennis Gill and Joe Richardson.
  - iii. More people interested in helping are needed and may be include in the Opportunity Expo.
- d. #3. Welcoming statement for the website.
  - i. John shared a draft of a welcoming statement that was used at a prior church he served. It is an example that we can use as a starting point. The congregation wrote it.
  - ii. Camille and Linda C. have volunteered to help write the LA-FUMC statement.
- e. Opportunity Fair/Expo will be held to familiarize the congregation with participation opportunities.
  - i. Suggested dates include:
    1. Aug. 20, 2023 after church.
    2. Sept. 10, 2023 during Programming Night.
- f. #4. Improve online activities: A special opportunity offer may be made to online people.
  - i. Camille suggested having 1 min. videos available online for each mission area.
- g. #5. Increase Ecumenical Activities

- i. Bethlehem Lutheran youth came to FUMC and will visit again in mid to late June.
- ii. Mission Team - Camille would like more ideas for hands on activities to bring people together.
- h. #6. Missional church.
  - i. Pastor John discussed FUMC becoming a Mission Church and offered our help to the conference.
  - ii. He will work more with Randall since we have the capabilities and resources needed to be a Missional Church. It is a work in progress.
  - iii. The concentration is currently on setting up a UMC in Carlsbad for those who do not want to disaffiliate.
  - iv. LA-UMC UWF reached out to someone in Ruidoso who does not want to disaffiliate.
    - 1. The individual is attending a closer UMC in another town.
- i. #7. FUMC Demographics
  - i. Pastor John, Kathy, and Julie will work on the demographics using Mission Insight Program
  - ii. We need to learn how to use this program then we will schedule a meeting.
  - iii. Carol has reviewed the church directory and pre-Covid attendance records to see whose relationship with the church is currently unknown (did they move, change to another church).
    - 1. There are not many people unaccounted for.
- j. #9. Debt free by the 75th anniversary
  - i. Pastor John will discuss this idea with endowment committee.

## 7. Communications to Congregation

- a. Lynn will work with Julie on a Midweek News article which will include the following:
  - i. The goals, ideas for meeting them and current progress.
  - ii. How the Leadership Board members are working on our own spiritual lives and holding each other accountable.
  - iii. Money in the church savings account is being transferred to a money market account offering an interest rate of 3.4%.
  - iv. The plan for an Opportunity Expo to inform and offer ways to participate in church activities.
  - v. There will be a link to the minutes on the church website.
  - vi. Members of the Leadership Board will be listed.

**Closing Prayer** was offered by Julie Risch.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 6:00 pm**

**Reports Due by: Thursday, June 22, 2023**

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Siebe