

**Corrected Leadership Board Meeting Minutes  
First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos, NM  
October 24, 2023**

**In Attendance:** Don Casperson, Valerie Collins, Kim Granzow, Lynn Kluegel, Carol Mead, Nathaniel Morgan, Paromeeta Nag, Rev. John Nash, Phillip Ortega, Julie Risch, Kathy Siebe, Camille Wescott,

**Absent:** Linda Collier

The opening prayer was given by Julie

**1. Spiritual Formation & Equipping Leadership**

a. Spiritual Discipline

- i. Several people noted what they were working on, what changes they were making and how well their goals were coming along.
- ii. Pastor John noted that Advent is a time to focus on spiritual practices.

**2. Engagement with congregation**

- a. Don Casperson notes that the roller skates have been returned by Los Alamos County from use at the ice-skating rink.
  - i. The skates will be organized and ready for use in time for a Boy Scout skate night to work on the skating badge and by 10/28/23 for a skating birthday party, the first since the COVID pandemic shut down.

**3. Church Charge conference**

- a. Saturday, October 28, 2023, 11:00 at the FUMC-LA; White Rock UMC will not be joining us.
  - i. Those that want to go to lunch afterwards will go to El Parasol.
- b. The agenda will be more formal and will include:
  - i. Pastor John's salary
  - ii. Election of leadership for the coming year.
  - iii. Discussing and voting on the Gift Acceptance Policy for endowments.
  - iv. Remembering those who died in the last year.
  - v. Celebrating church and personal accomplishments of the past year.
- c. The Endowment Committee has reviewed the Gift Acceptance Policy in detail and written a final version.
  - i. **Motion:** The Endowment committee recommends acceptance of the Gift Acceptance Policy version as presented.
    1. The Leadership Board accepted the Gift Acceptance Policy with the following changes which will be made at the Charge Conference:
      - a. Page 5, I.B. Publicly Traded Securities should read, "If the gift is deemed acceptable to the Committee, the gift **may** immediately be sold in a manner deemed most appropriate by the Committee."
      - b. Page 7: V. B. Gift Use should read, "The Church leadership team **directs that all** undesignated memorial gifts to the church be placed automatically in a Permanent Endowment Fund."
      - c. Motion passed.
  - ii. Clarification regarding publicly traded securities
    1. When a security is given to the church the value of the security on the day it is given is the amount listed on the receipt of the donor.
      - a. When the security is traded by the church the value may be more, the same or less than the value on the day it was donated.

- i. If it is more the church gains an advantage. If it is less the church loses money on it and the donor does not have to make up the difference.
    - ii. Securities may be sold or held by the church depending on United Methodist Church's social principles.
  - iii. Real Property
    - 1. Page 6: 1.E.1. Non-cash gifts and all other property: "The donor has sole responsibility to the Internal Revenue Service for identifying the value of any non-cash gift." (no change in the wording)
      - a. Clarification: When an object is donated to the church the donor determines the value but does not need to inform the church of the value.
  - iv. The Endowment Committee is working on the policies and procedures including how investing will be done.
    - 1. All or part of the money currently invested with TMF will be invested in securities that have a greater return of interest than they do currently with TMF.

#### 4. New Mexico UMC Conference.

- a. Ross Whitaker will become the District Superintendent for the Albuquerque district Nov. 1, 2023.
  - i. An installation ceremony will be held in 2024.
- b. A provost has not been appointed.
- c. Bishop Max Whitfield is leading the Just Resolution Process for Randall Partin's case.
  - i. This process may prevent the necessity of a trial.
- d. A Special Annual Conference has been called for on 12/9/23 to discuss and vote on additional churches that want to disaffiliate with the UMC.

#### 5. Approval of minutes.

- a. **Motion:** Kim moved, Camille second that the September minutes be approved as written. Motion passed.

#### 6. Auditor report

- a. The report is not being given tonight as the auditor has recently requested additional information and is waiting for those reports.
- b. Pastor John and Paromeeta will meet with the auditor 10/25/23 at 10 a.m.
- c. Pastor John will send Kim a text about the reports that are requested.

#### 7. Review of Financial Report

- a. The August and September financial reports are not yet official.
  - i. Paromeeta will review them with Amy Worcester so that Amy can check that everything is being done correctly.
  - ii. The September 2023 operating budget is doing well. Income was greater than expenditures.
  - iii. Year to date spending is \$29,204 more than income.
  - iv. Year to date giving is still well below last year.
- b. Many of the estimated giving cards for 2024 have been turned in with the estimated amount \$210,000.
  - i. Pastor John plans to send out thank you notes.
- c. \$17,600 was given toward the mortgage dept. When added to the "found money" of \$18,000 both of which will be applied toward the principal the mortgage will be reduced by one year plus.

#### 8. Ark

- a. No children were sent home due to illness in the last week.
- b. Having only 2 payrolls in October has allowed the Ark income to be more than expenditures.

- c. Security Cameras
  - i. Southwest Security has given Pastor John the final bill for the new door locks.
    - 1. It is a little higher than the amount approved by the Ark Board which will need to approve the increased cost.
      - a. The cost can be covered by the grant.
    - 2. Once the cost is approved the work on the doors will be done in a couple months.
  - ii. Rafael has returned from medical leave so he and Phillip, **both** of whom have experience, will discuss the wiring of the security cameras on Thursday, 11/26/23.
  - iii. The cameras will operate 24/7 once they are installed.
- d. The lawsuit against the Ark and FUMC-LA has not yet have been filed so it has not been reviewed.
  - i. Pastor John discussed the information that has been received with:
    - 1. The conference attorney
    - 2. The insurance company

## 9. Goal Review & Accountability Conversations

- a. Nominations Committee
  - i. Individuals have been approached and asked to consider being the Lay Leader and chairperson of the Leadership Board. No commitment on either position has been made yet.
    - 1. Lynn will continue as a Leadership Board member but not as the chairperson.

## 10. Fall Leadership Board retreat

- a. Tuesday, November 7, 2023
- b. 5:30 Potluck dinner
- c. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Retreat meeting
- d. Topics of discussion:
  - i. Preparations for 2024.
    - 1. List items to discuss with new board members.
  - ii. Goals
    - 1. List who is interested in working on each goal.
      - a. Phillip has this information.
    - 2. Note who is willing to be chair of each goal if known.
      - a. If no one has expressed interest in chairing a goal, consider who of those interested in the goal that might be asked to be the chair.
  - iii. Lynn and Phillip will work on the agenda details
- e. Lynn, Phillip, and Julie will assemble any required materials.

## 11. Communications to the Congregation

- a. Camille will assist Julie with the Midweek News articles about the Charge Conference and goals discussed at the retreat.

The closing prayer was given by Camille

**Retreat:** November 7, 2023, 6:00 p.m. No reports are required.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

The date was discussed. Everyone except Nathaniel who will be in Paris, France, will be available on Dec. 5.

**Reports Due by:** Thursday, November 30, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Siebe